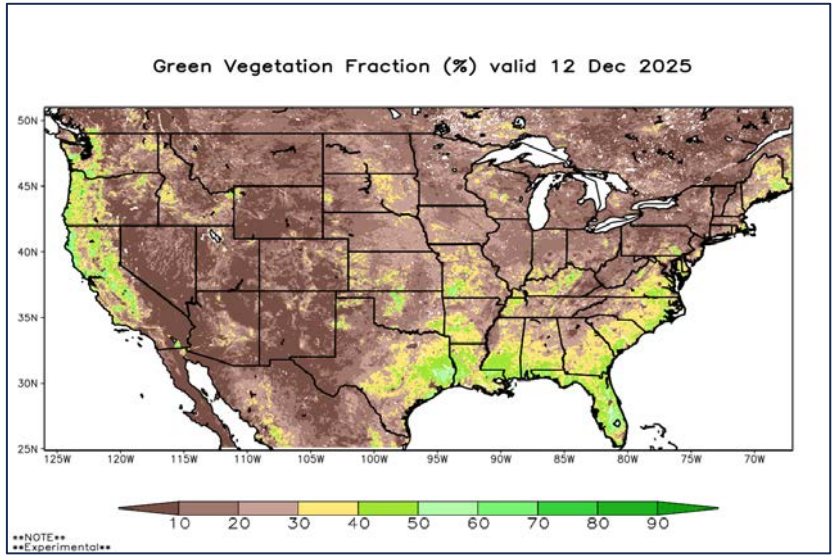
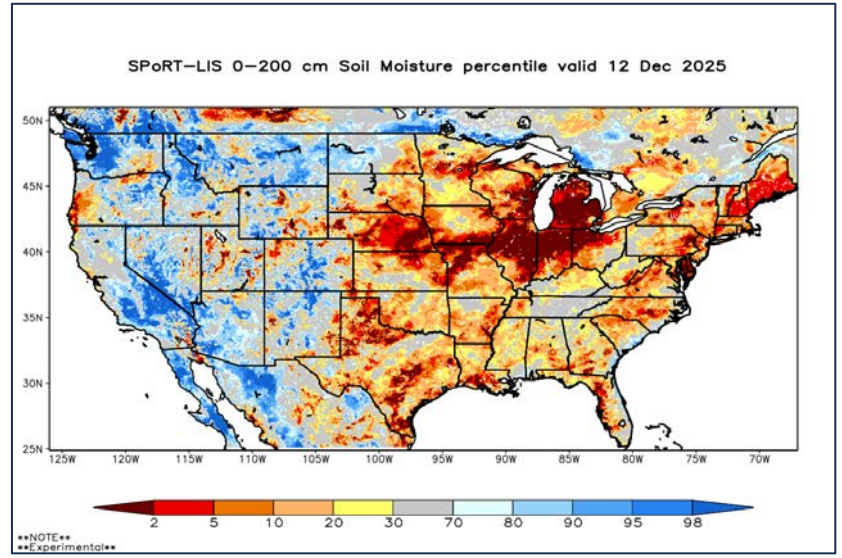
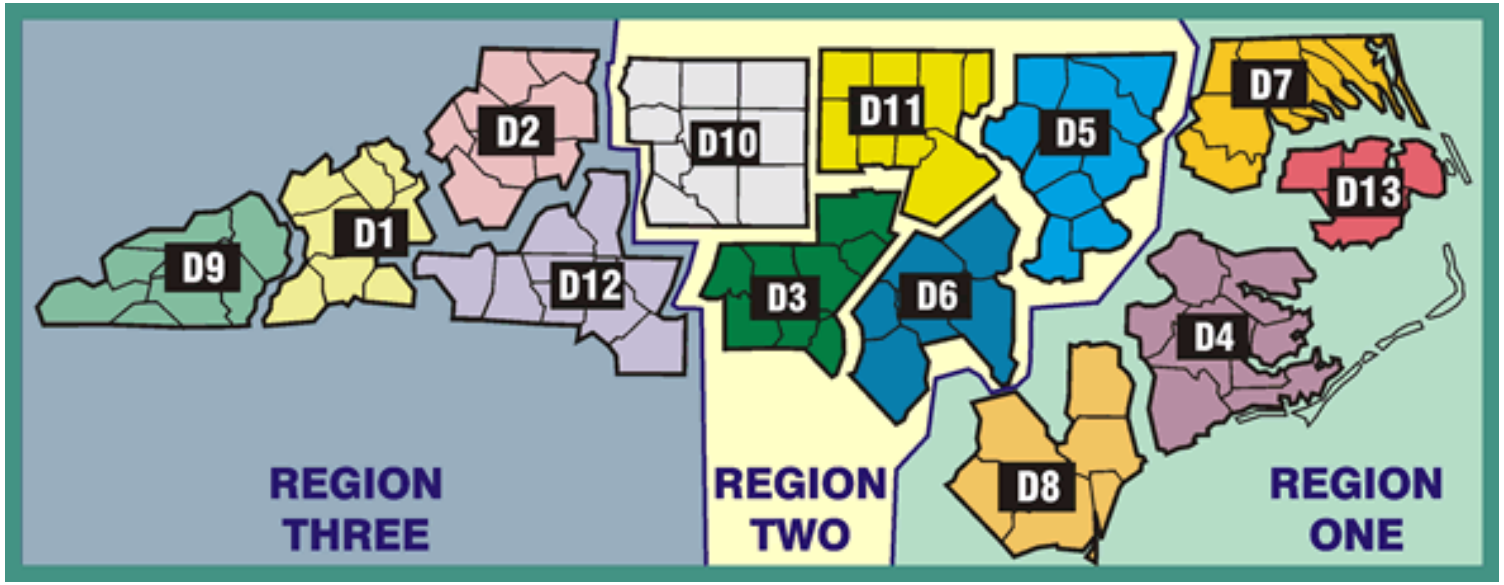
December - 2025

Monthly Fire Danger Assessment NCFS – All Regions







Date: December 12, 2025

Created by: Jamie Dunbar
Fire Environment Staff Forester
NC Forest Service

Statewide Wildfire Context

January: 10-yr avg is 309 fires for 530 acres
February: 10-yr avg is 618 fires for 1,598 acres
March: 10-yr avg is 891 fires for 4,784 acres
April: 10-yr avg is 629 fires for 6,546 acres
May: 10-yr avg is 293 fires for 1,161 acres
June: 10-yr avg is 243 fires for 2,424 acres
July: 10-yr avg is 193 fires for 645 acres
August: 10-yr avg is 138 fires for 395 acres
September: 10-yr avg is 173 fires for 377 acres
October: 10-yr avg is 236 fires for 1,962 acres
November: 10-yr avg is 462 fires for 6,035 acres
***December: 10-yr avg is 305 fires for 580 acres**

October: 402 incidents for 450 acres
November: 921 incidents for 2,353 acres
MTD Activity: 66 incidents for 34.3 acres

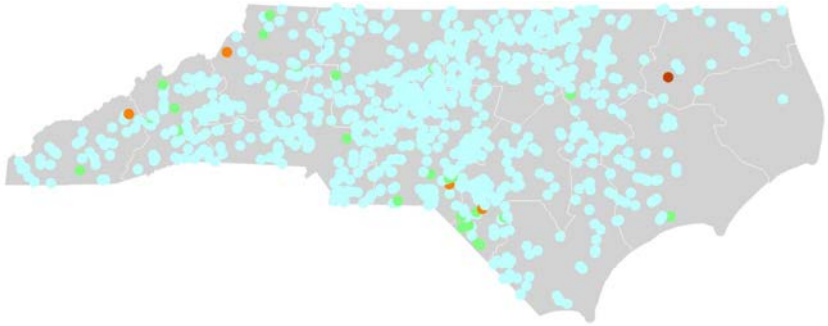
All wildfire activity data is preliminary
Does not include additional federal wildfires/acres
2015-2024 CY Average

**Largest incidents by discovery date, MTD December:
from fiResponse & preliminary reporting only

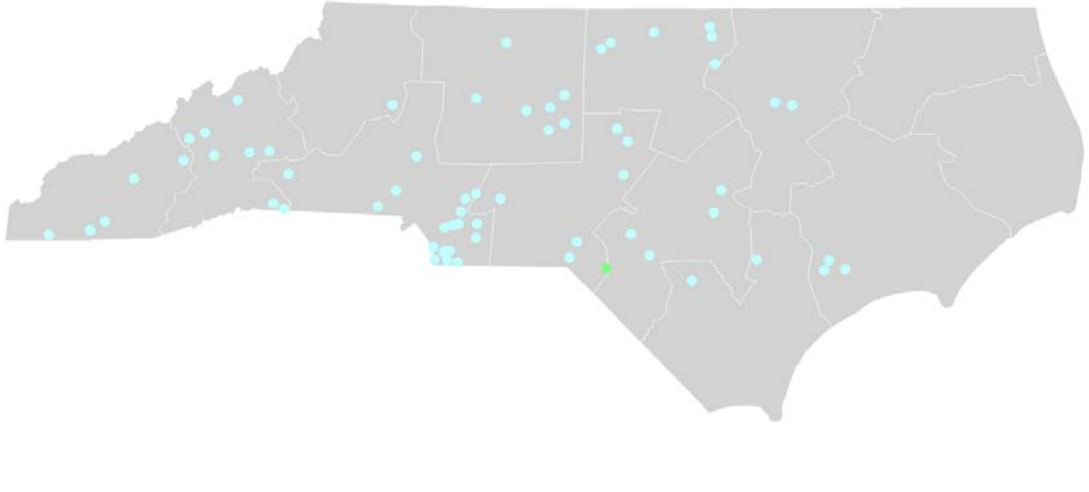
Incident Name	Discovery Date	Region	District	County	Acres
Airbase Rd	12/1/2025	Region 2	District 3	Scotland County	10.00
Turnip	12/3/2025	Region 2	District 11	Caswell County	4.00
Field	12/11/2025	Region 2	District 6	Hoke County	2.55
Malloy mattress	12/1/2025	Region 2	District 3	Richmond County	2.00
Filter Plan	12/10/2025	Region 3	District 9	Haywood County	2.00
Bladen County - Ruskin Road	12/1/2025	Region 1	District 8	Bladen County	1.00
Rushing Rd.	12/1/2025	Region 3	District 12	Union County	1.00
Tyson Rd	12/1/2025	Region 2	District 3	Stanly County	1.00
Treyburn Drive	12/11/2025	Region 3	District 12	Cabarrus County	1.00
Burch Again	12/9/2025	Region 2	District 6	Johnston County	1.00
Foxtrot Ln Fire	12/10/2025	Region 2	District 10	Davie County	1.00
NW Bridge Fire	12/11/2025	Region 1	District 4	Onslow County	0.75

October 2025

November 2025

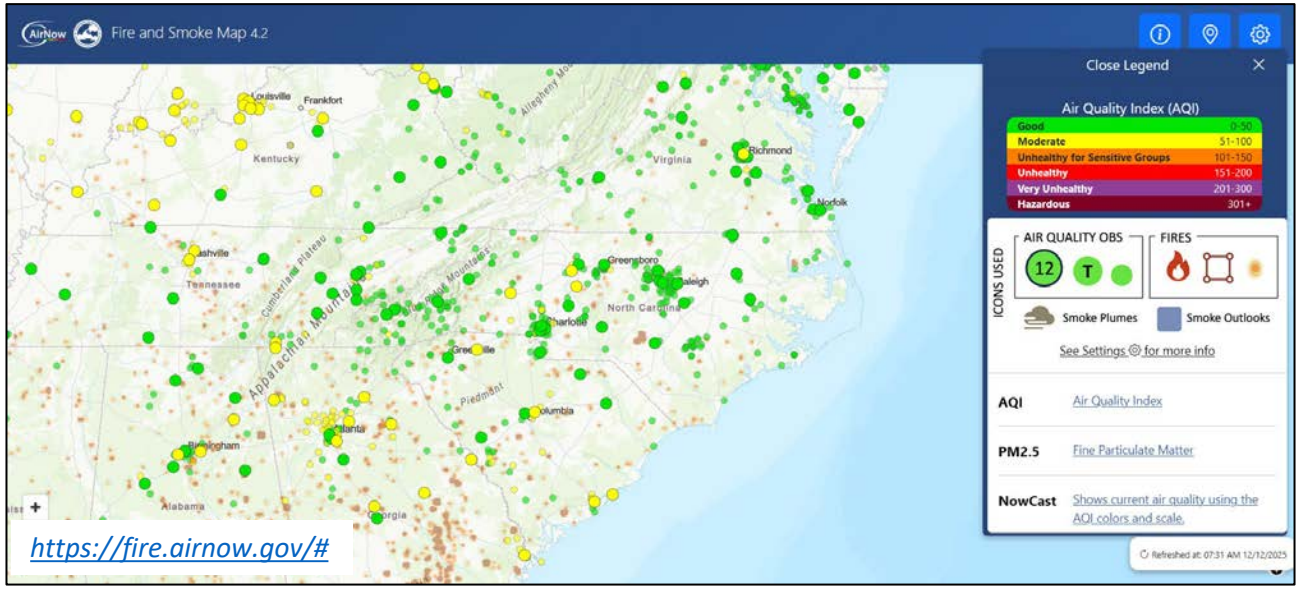


MTD (12/1 – 12/11)



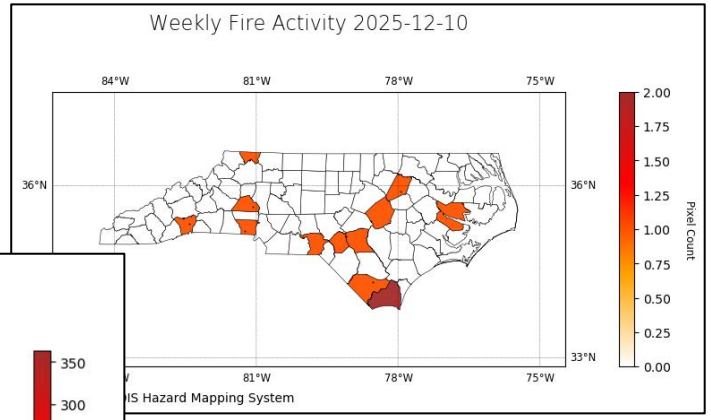
***Note: DOD & other entirely federal ownership wildfires not shown on fiResponse*

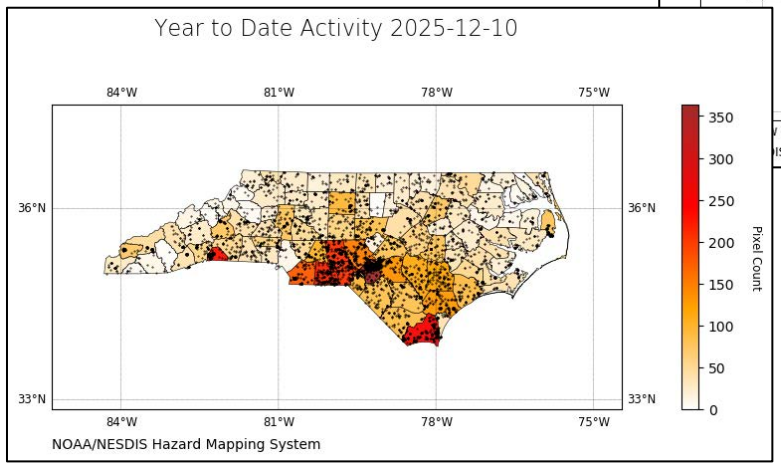
Air Quality Notes



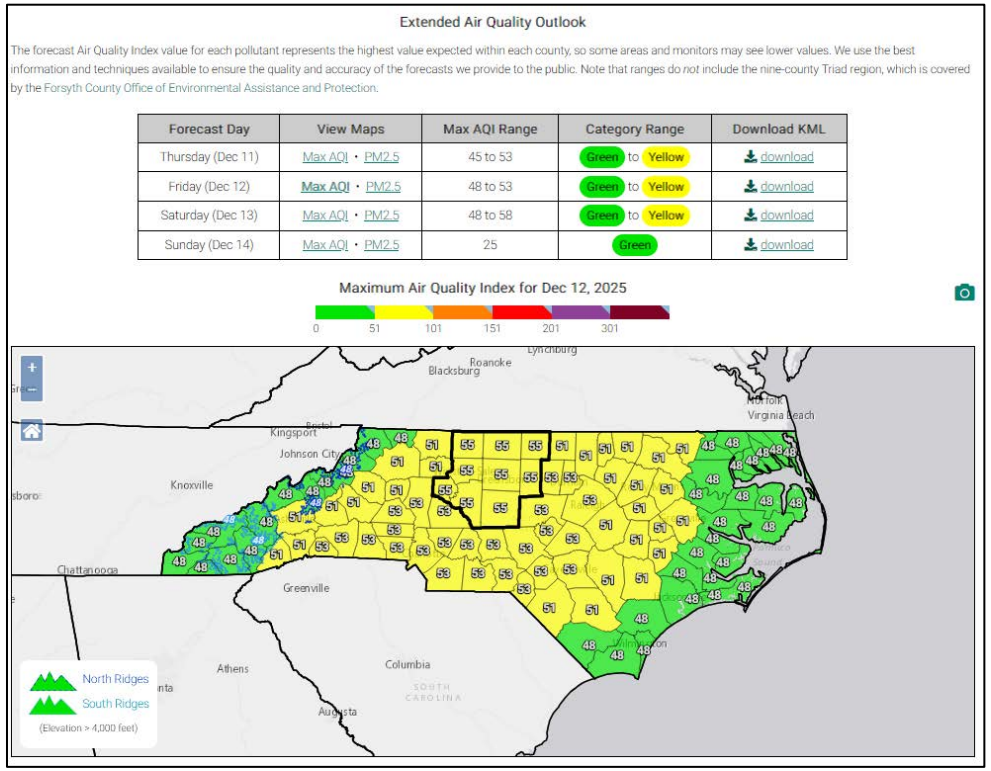
https://fire.airnow.gov/#

Fire & Smoke Map heat detects from VIIRS (above). RX Burning evident in the Southeast. NC Map showing YTD and past week satellite detects from same source. Note that cloud cover and other factors can limit detections. Hazard Mapping System link below, center.





https://www.ospo.noaa.gov/products/land/hms.html#maps



This forecast was issued on **Thursday, December 11, 2025** at **3:07 pm**. This forecast is currently valid.

Today's Air Quality Conditions

Current daily average fine particulate concentrations are in the Code Green range statewide.

For a display of the most recent Air Quality Index (AQI) conditions throughout the day, visit the Ambient Information Reporter (AIR) tool.

General Forecast Discussion

Generally quiet weather and a broad pressure gradient overhead on Friday and Saturday will lead to light, circulating winds in the region. With overnight lows near or just below freezing, the potential for an uptick in residential wood burning paired with strong overnight temperature inversions means that fine particulates will likely accumulate well into the moderate Code Yellow range. Pollution will only slowly disperse during the day. Expect widespread Code Yellow daily averages to persist on both days.

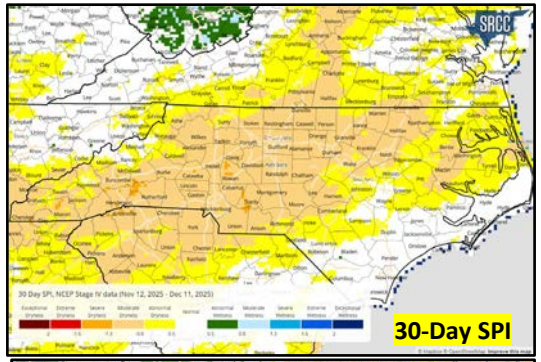
Outlook

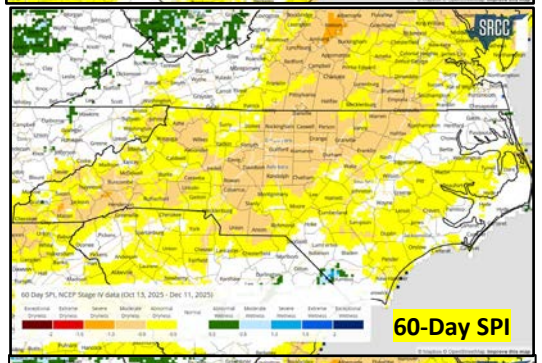
On Sunday morning, an extremely cold, dry Arctic front will drive through from the northwest and clear the state by early afternoon. Strong northwesterly winds behind the front will deliver a clean, chilly airmass to the region. Fine particulates will lower into the Code Green range statewide.

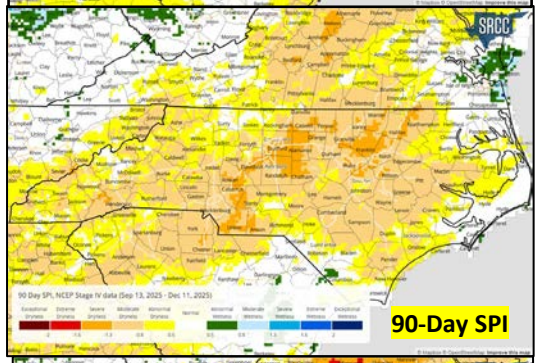
Author: Sara Kreuser (sara.kreuser@deq.nc.gov) - NC Division of Air Quality

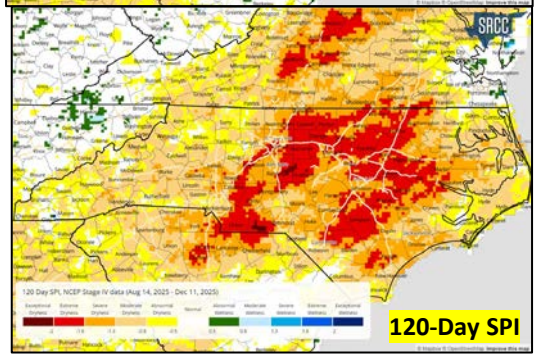
https://airquality.climate.ncsu.edu/discussion/?view=latest

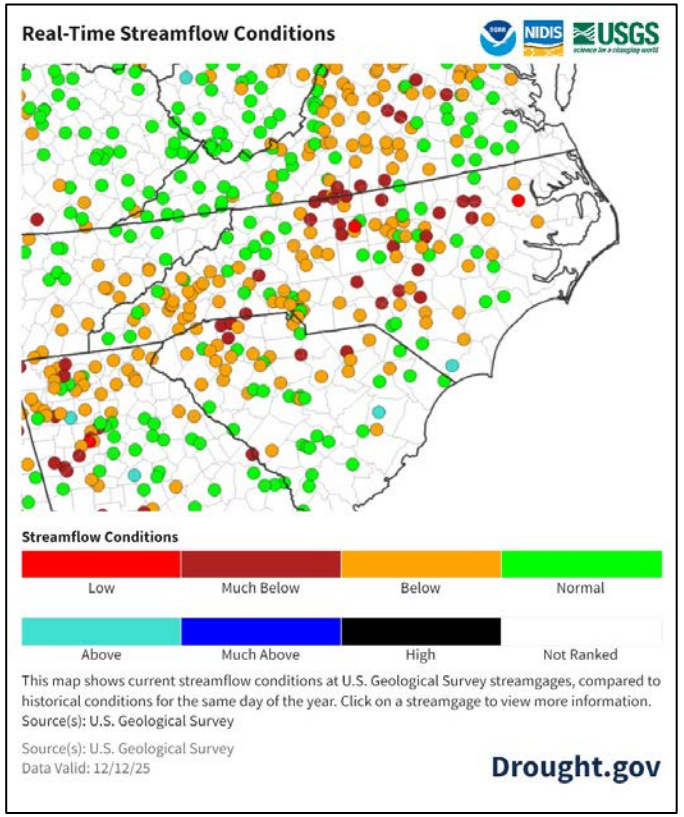
https://srcc.tamu.edu/water_portal/

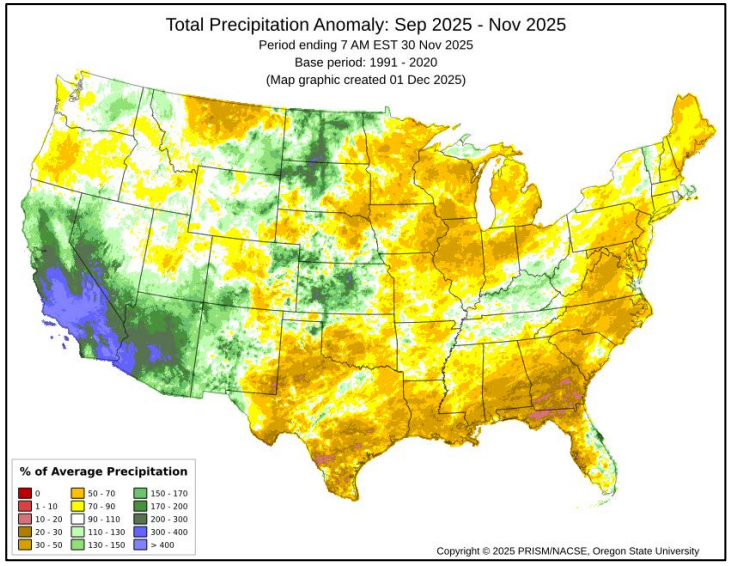


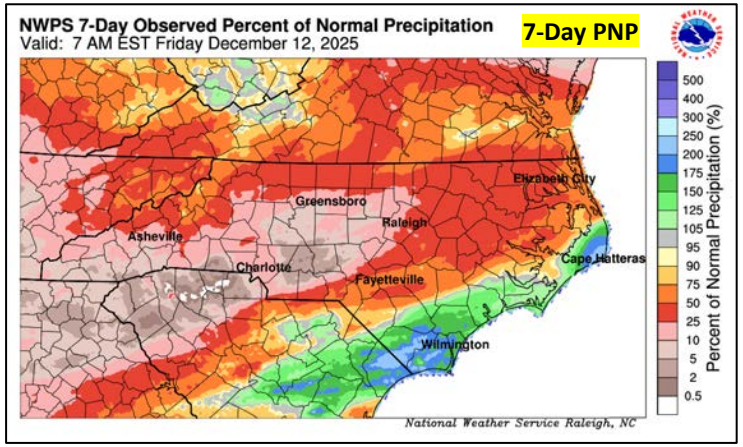


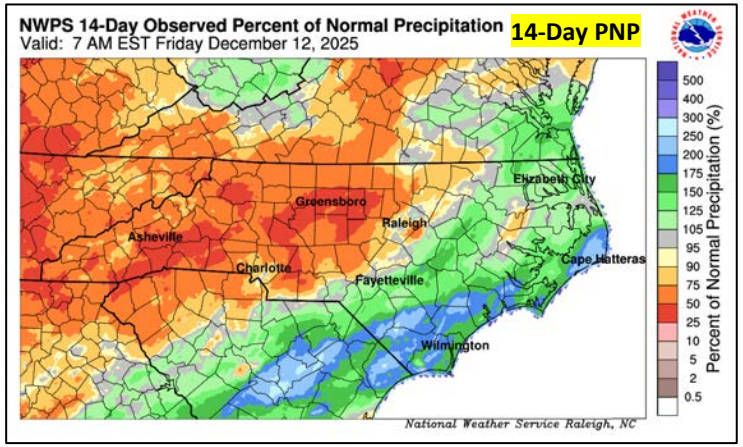


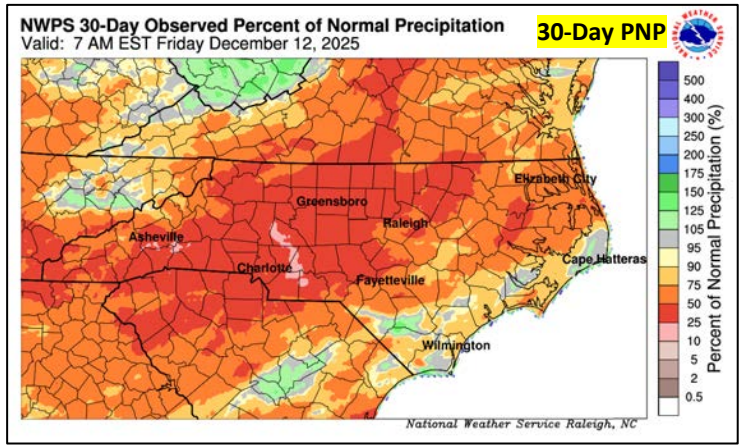




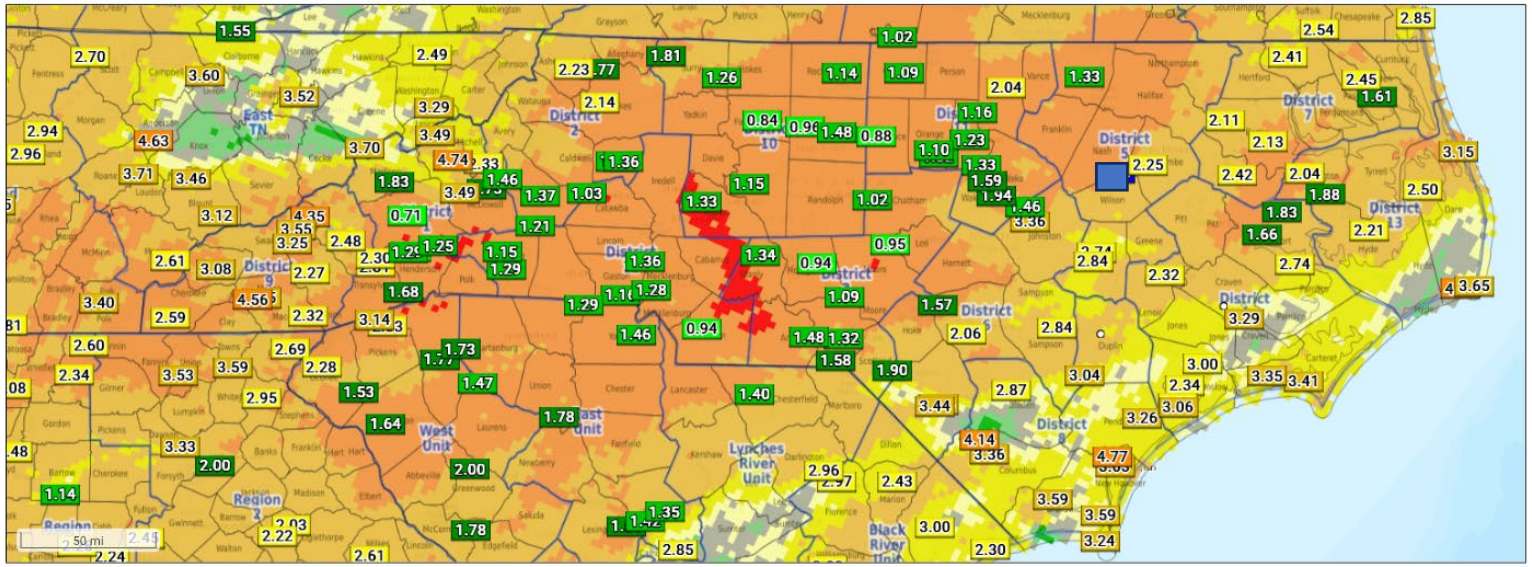








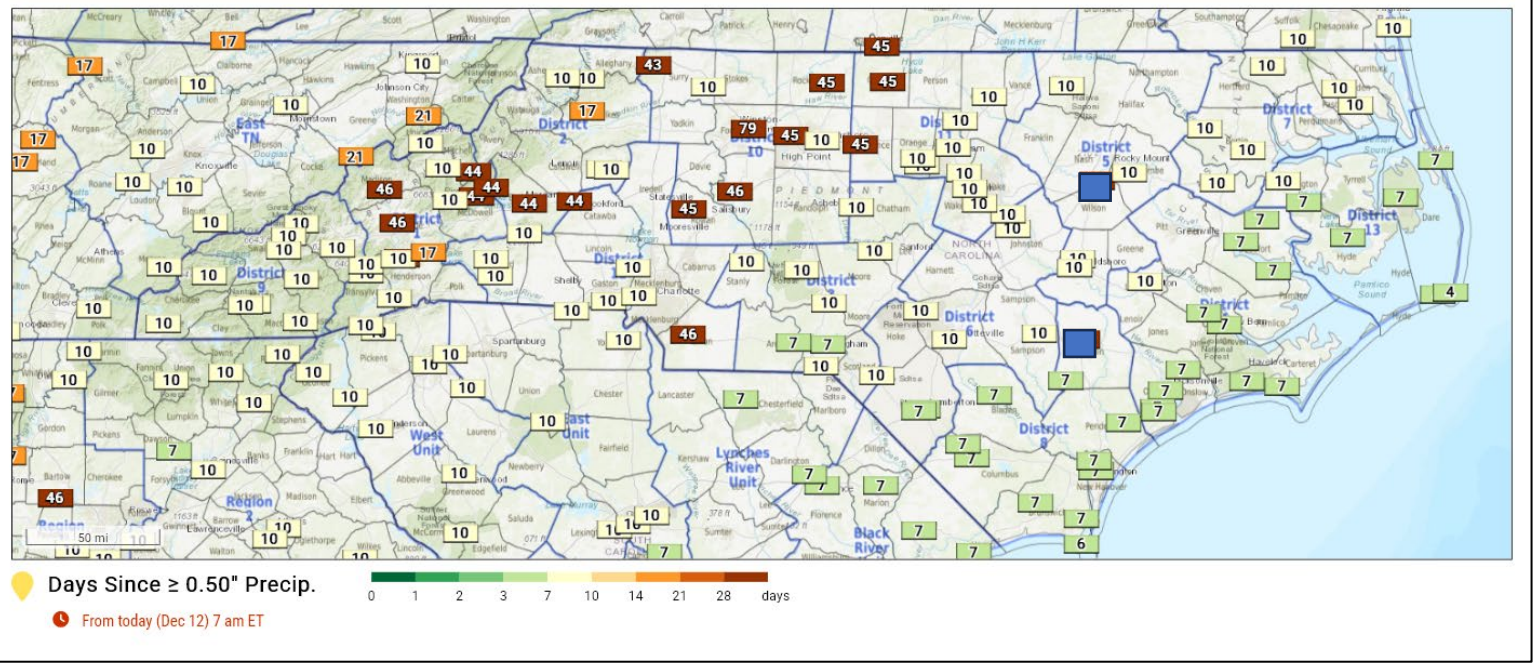
From the Fire Weather Intelligence Portal • *products.climate.ncsu.edu/fire*



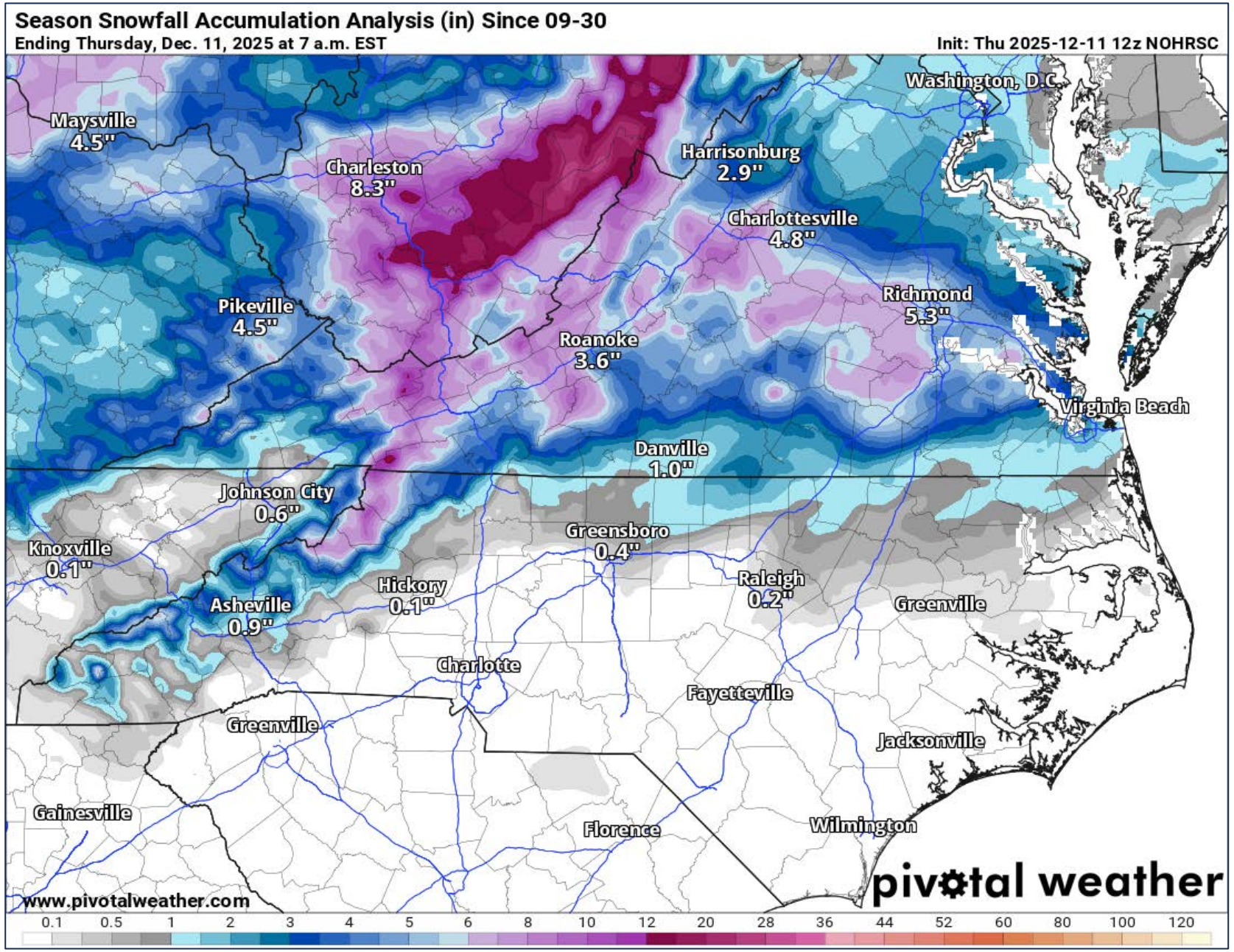
30-Day Station Total Precip & 30-Day PNP

Days since ≥ 0.50” Precip Event

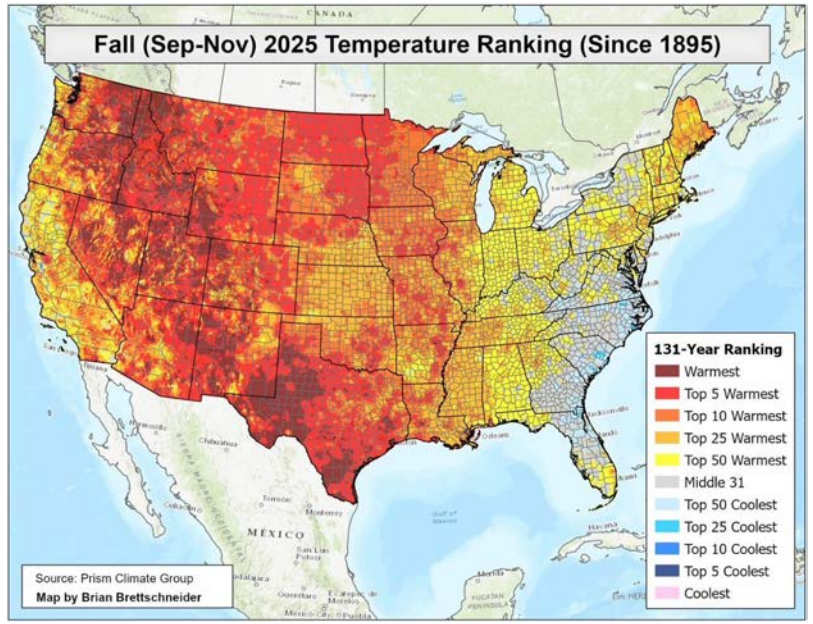
From the Fire Weather Intelligence Portal • *products.climate.ncsu.edu/fire*

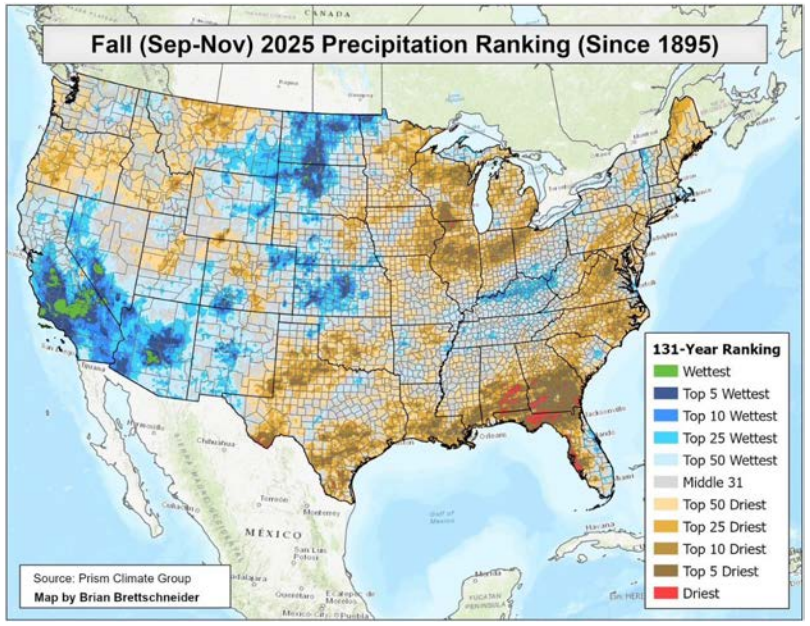


Season Total Snowfall Accumulation

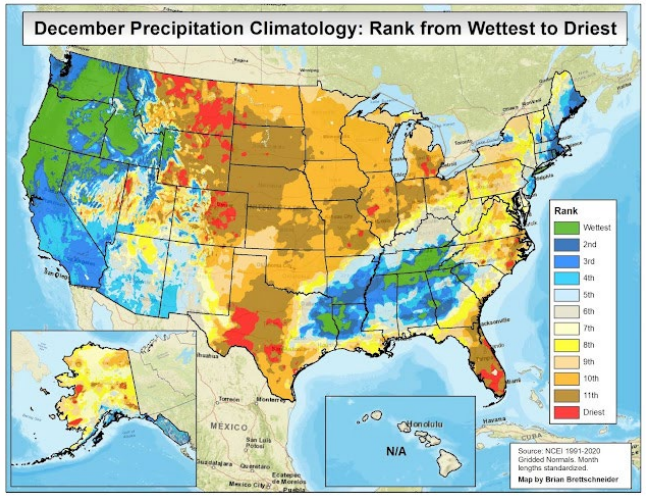


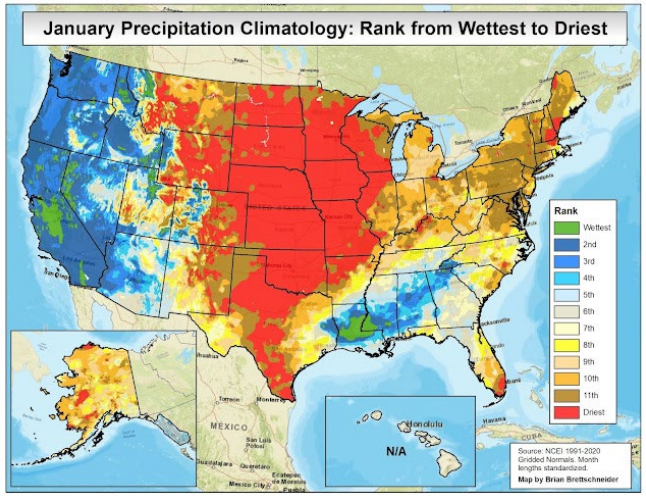
Fall 2025 Temp & Precip
Ranking since 1895





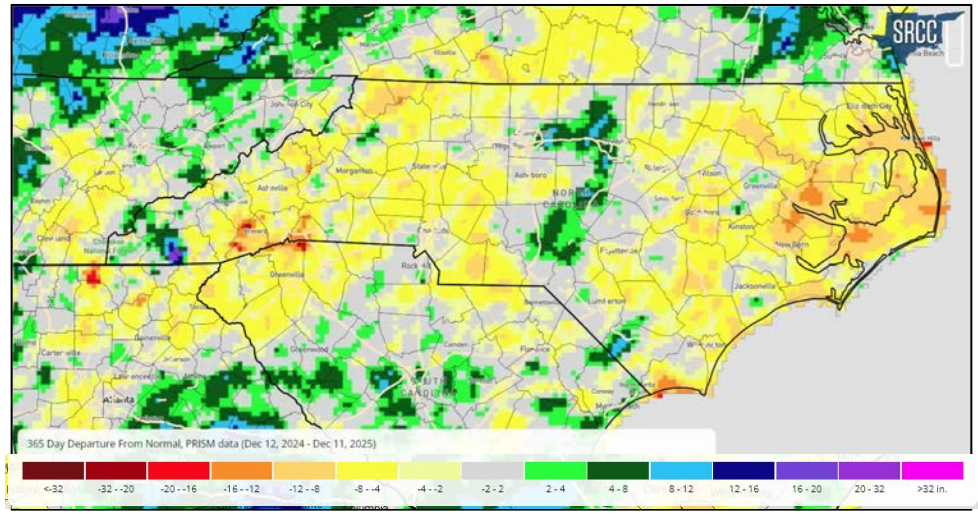
Rainfall Rankings by Month
1991-2020 Climatology)





https://us-climate.blogspot.com/2021/06/wettest-months-of-year-1991-2020.html

1-Yr Departure from Normal (in.)



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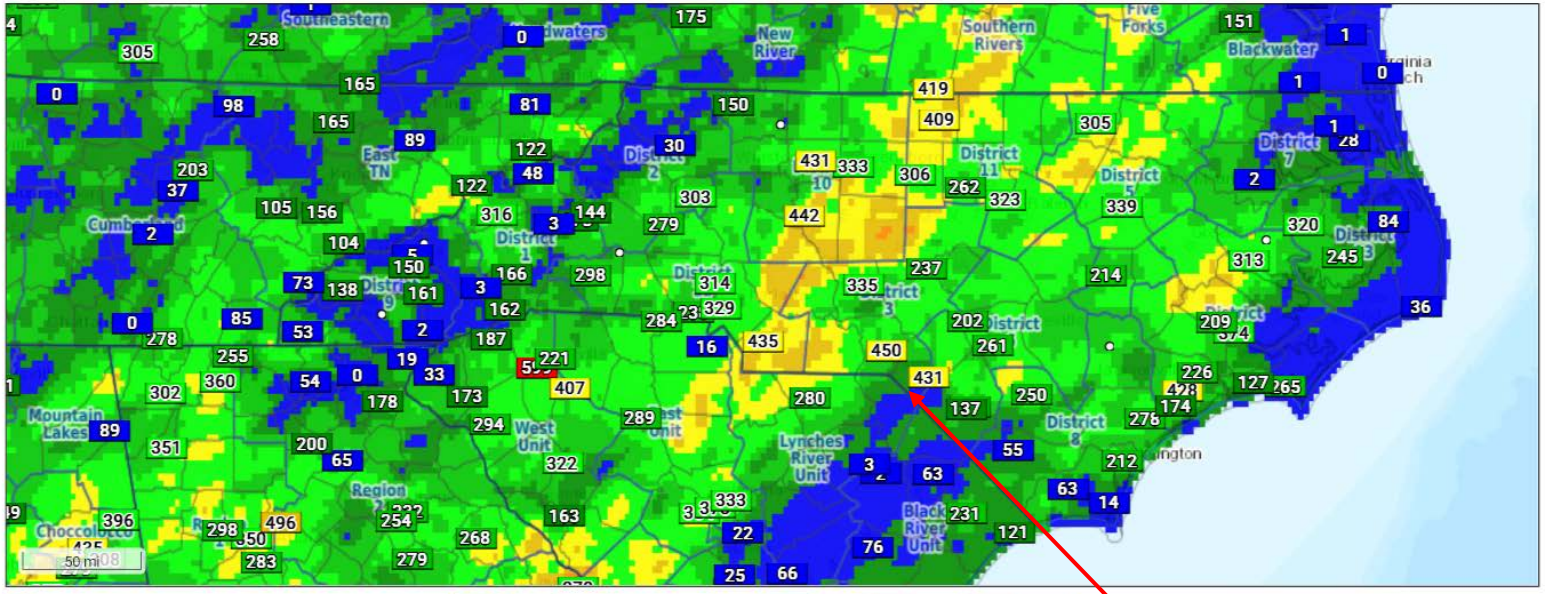
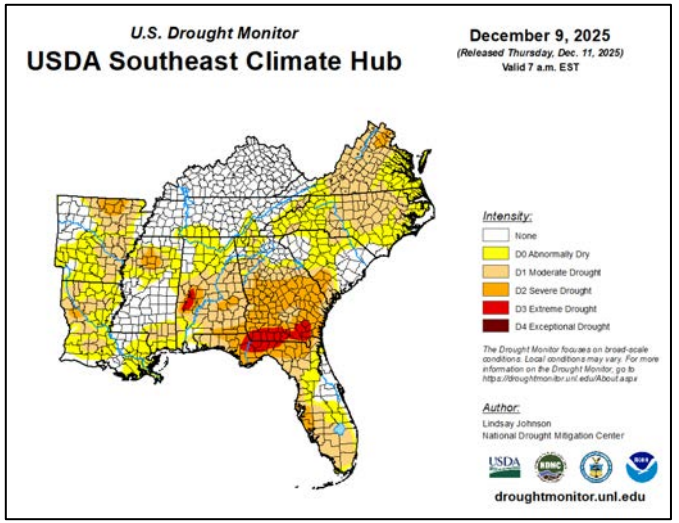


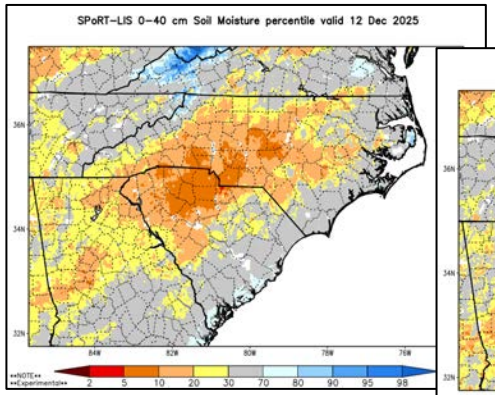
Points from 12/12, Grid from 12/10

FEMS developers have identified an apparent KBDI modeling issue with some RAWS Stations not responding to recent significant rain events, including Rockingham Station. Will be likely be addressed in next FEMS update. The grid is calculated separately.

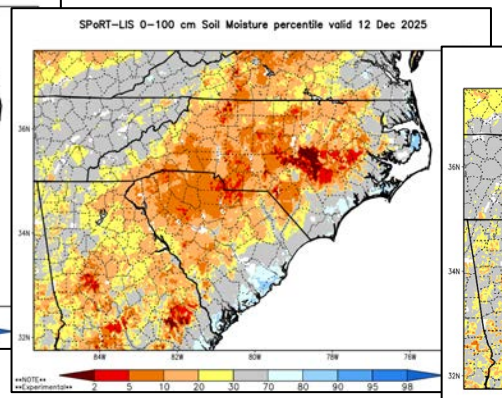
- KBDIs have decreased in many areas over the past month, however pockets of much drier conditions remain. Reminders that KBDI daily increases are based upon maximum daily temperature.
- Intense surface fire can still occur even with low KBDI values in the dormant season.
- Note modeled 0-200 cm soil moisture percentile, representing the ~0-6 ft. soil profile across the landscape (bottom center).
- USDM Map comparison – 2016, 2024, 2025.

Current

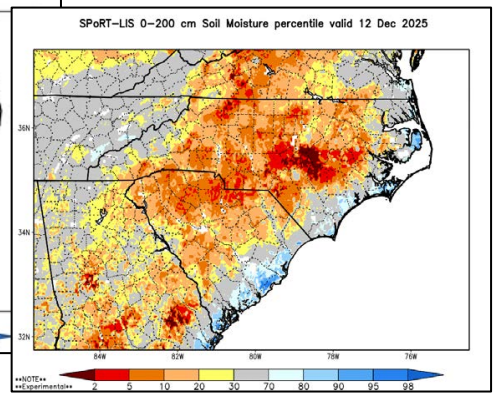




0-40 cm

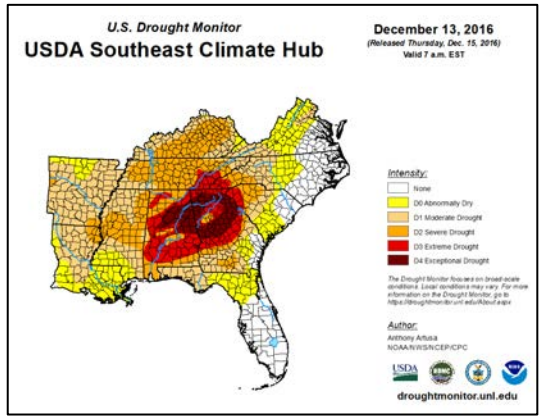


0-100 cm

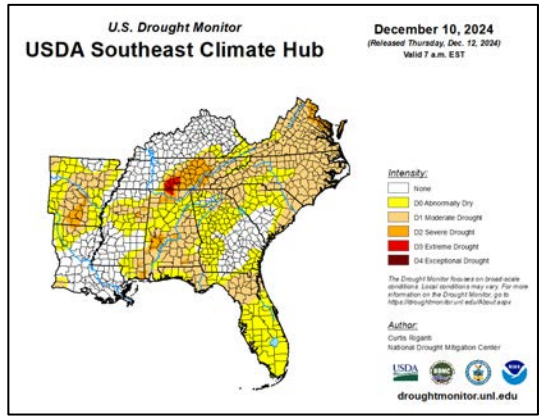


0-200 cm

2016

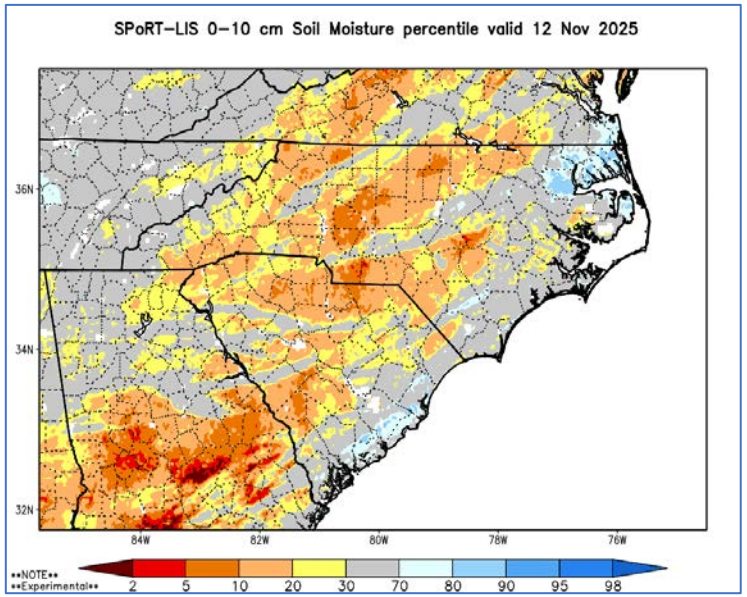


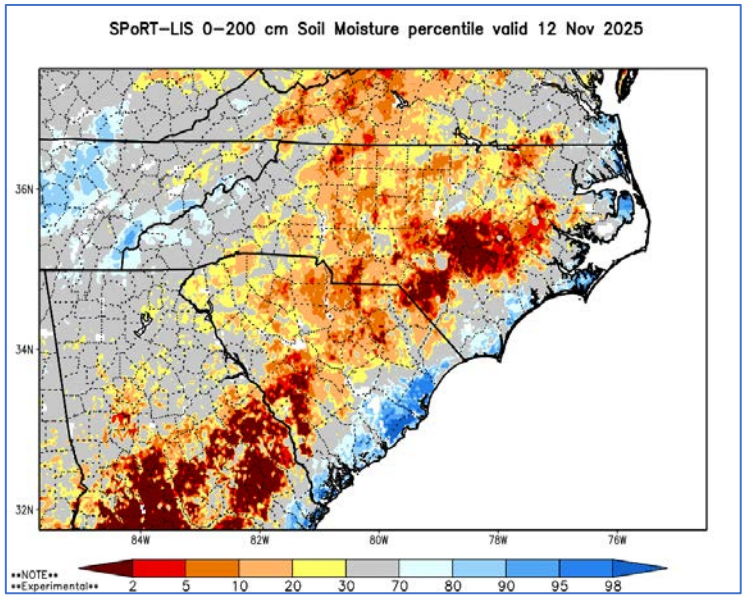
2024



SPoRT Modeled Soil Moisture Percentiles for ~4” and ~72” profile.

11/12/25



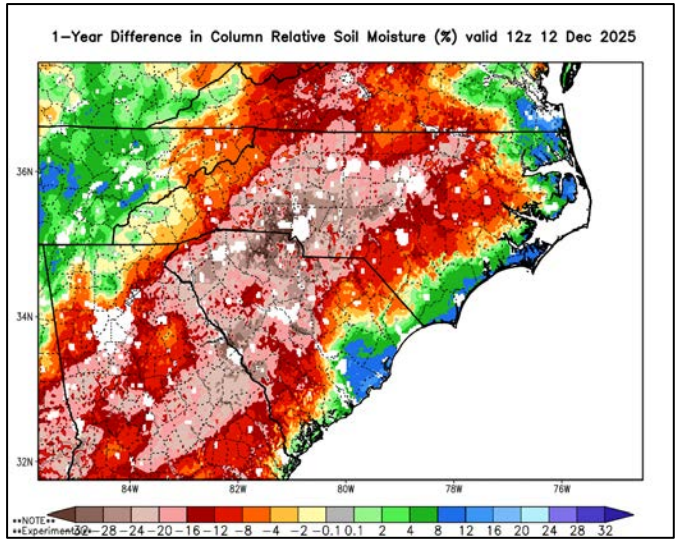


~ 30-days ago Left, today on Right.
Just a model.

Soil dryness expanding in depth and spatial extent. Slower than growing season, but still occurring.

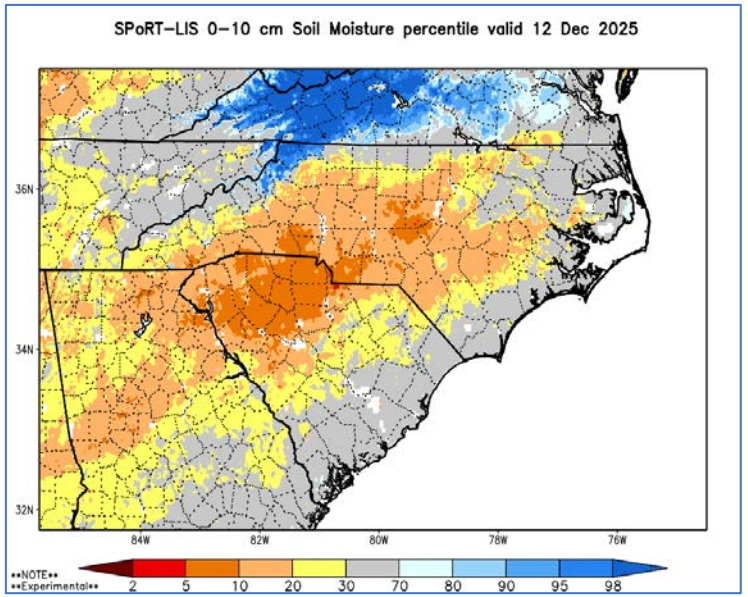
Models are picking up on significant dryness for much of the state.

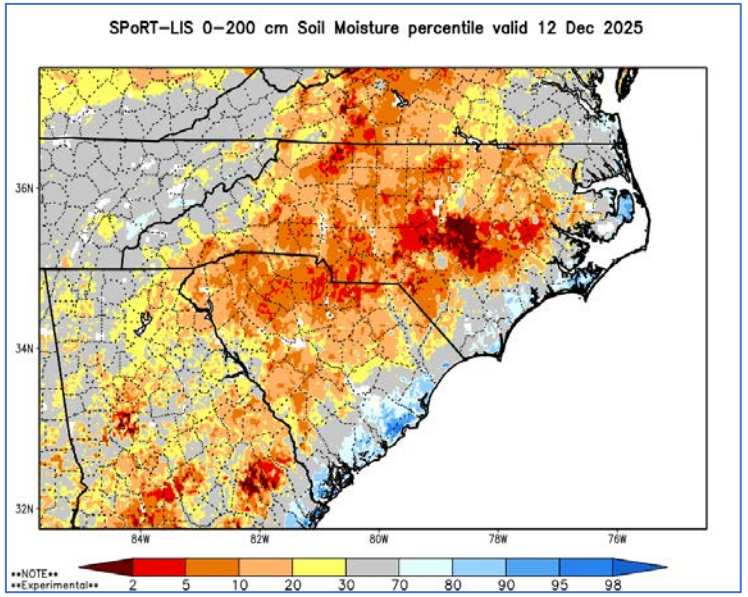
Note 1-year difference graphic below.



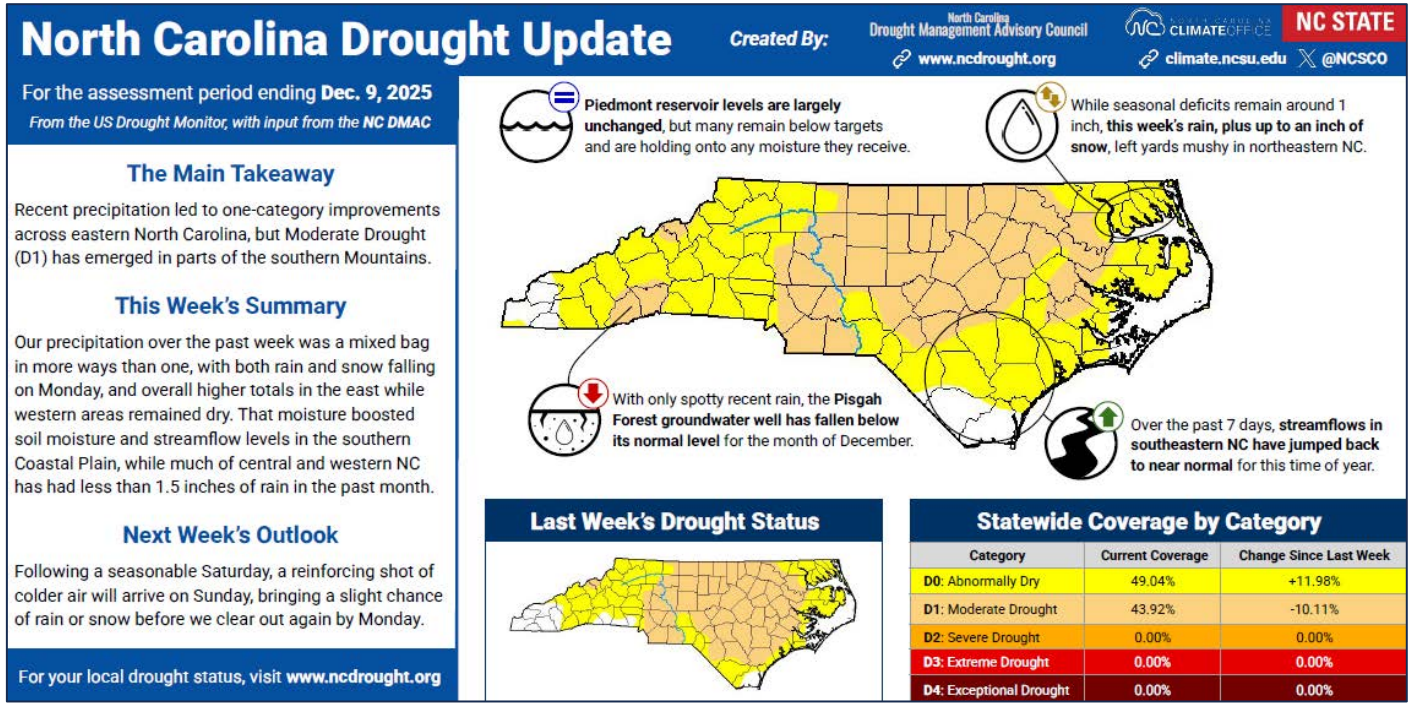
https://weather.ndc.nasa.gov/sport/case_studies/lis_NC.html

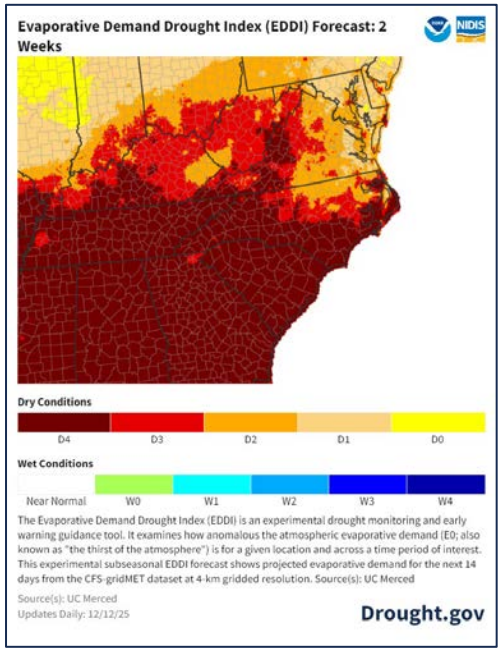
12/12/25

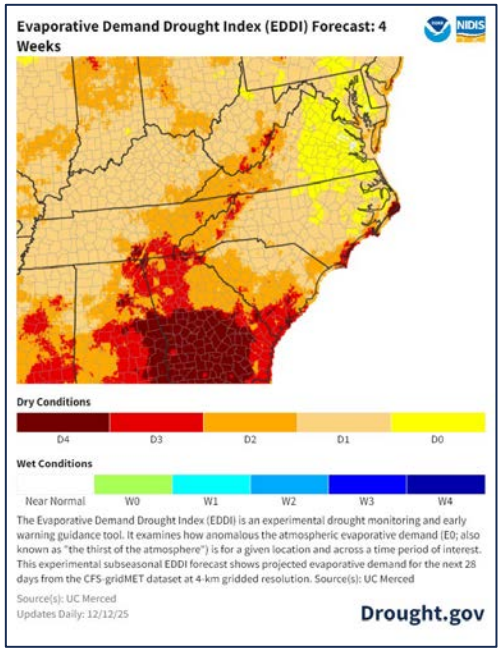




https://www.drought.gov/data-maps-tools/evaporative-demand-drought-index-eddi-subseasonal-forecasts





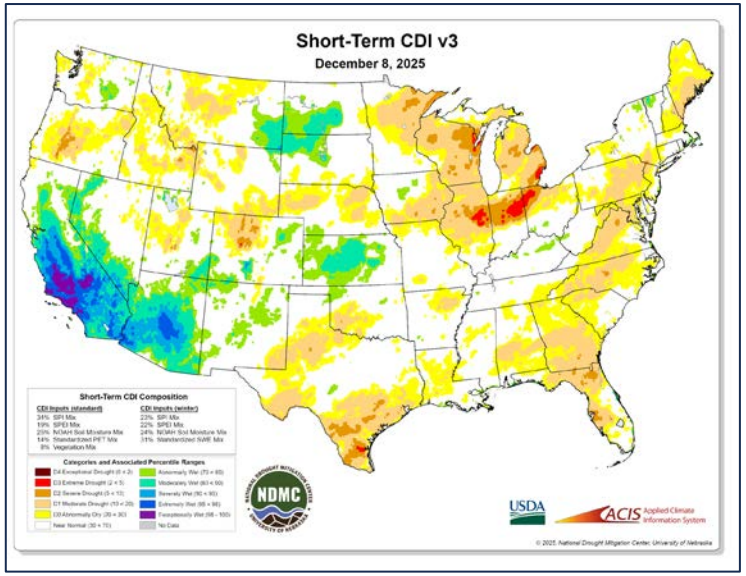


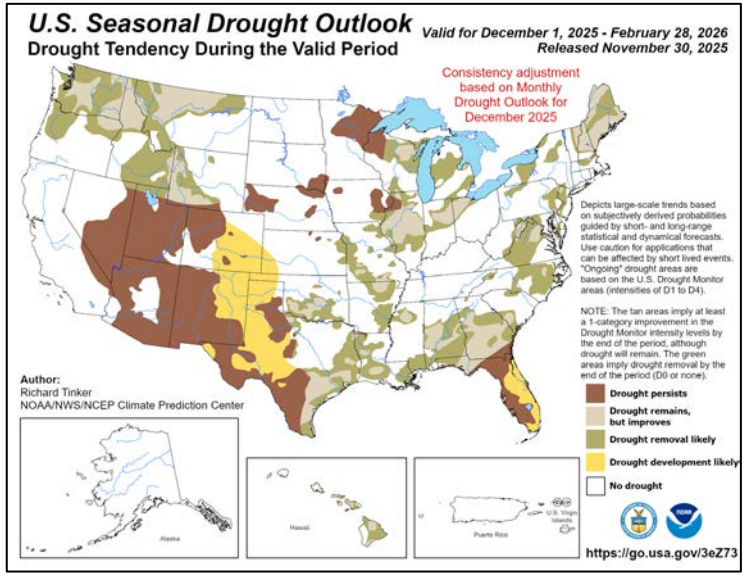
EDDI & Drought

EDDI Maps - The EDDI maps at the top right illustrate modeled evaporative demand at the two-week and four-week avg level. They are trending much drier than normal for NC in the 2-week time scale. Warmth, lack of precip and dry air accelerates this index.

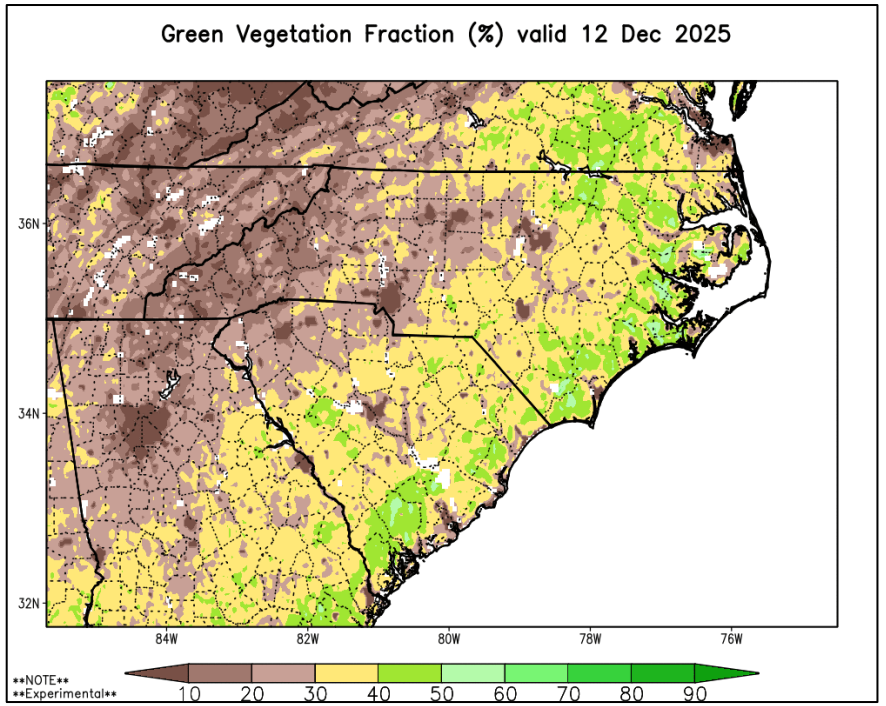
US Drought Monitor – Most recent USDM map release above (12/9). Model spread is significant with La Nina related pattern impacting the SE. Rapid drought intensification is possible as we move into the growing season, should rainfall deficits remain significant.

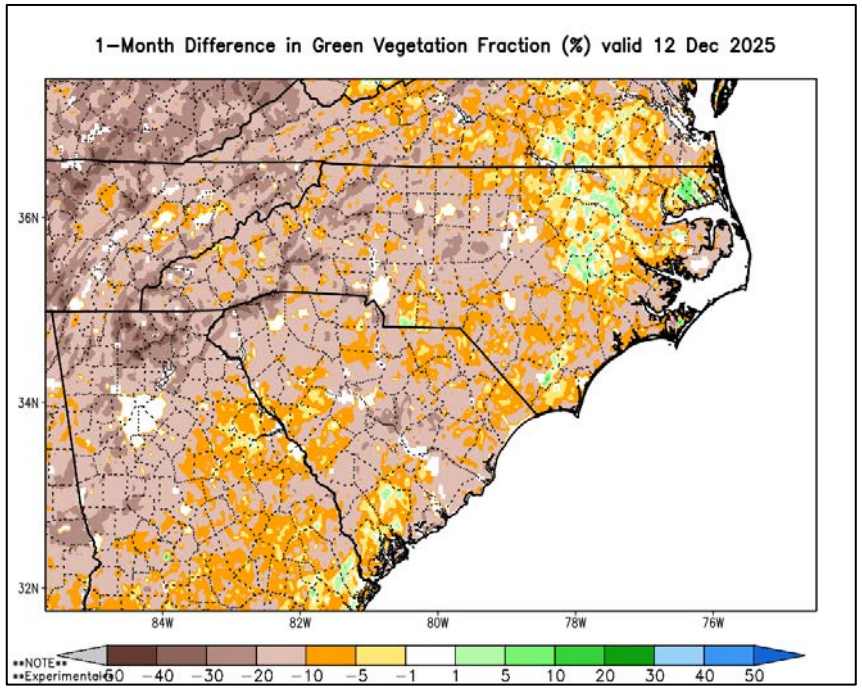
Short-Term Composite Drought Indicator Map & Seasonal Drought Outlook - shown at right. See detailed state/regional discussions here. Conditions are favoring persisting dryness in current areas of drought and expanding overall dryness as we move through winter. *All of this is dependent upon any future storm tracks and seasonal variability we see moving through Winter.*

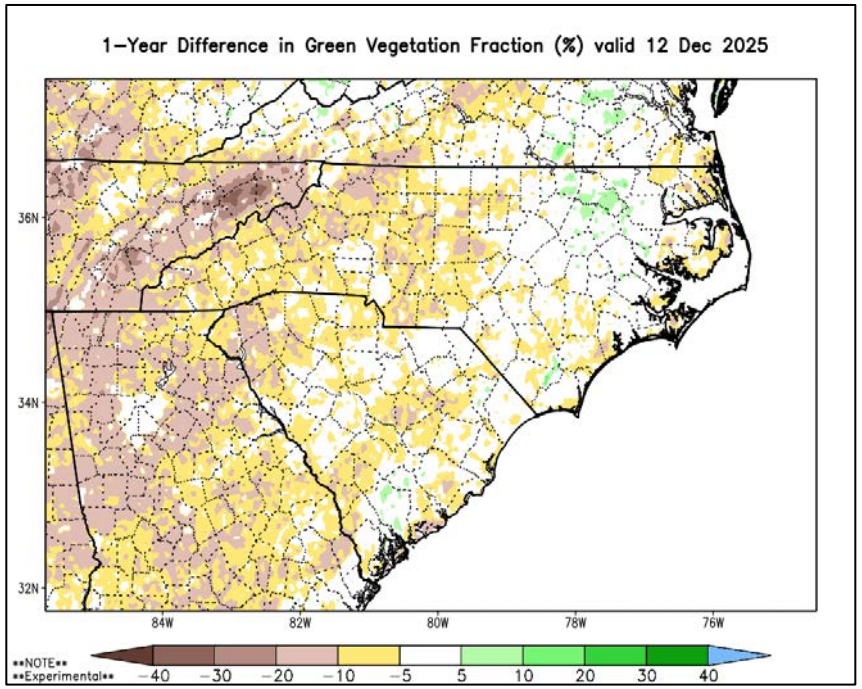




SPoRT Modeled Green Vegetation Fraction

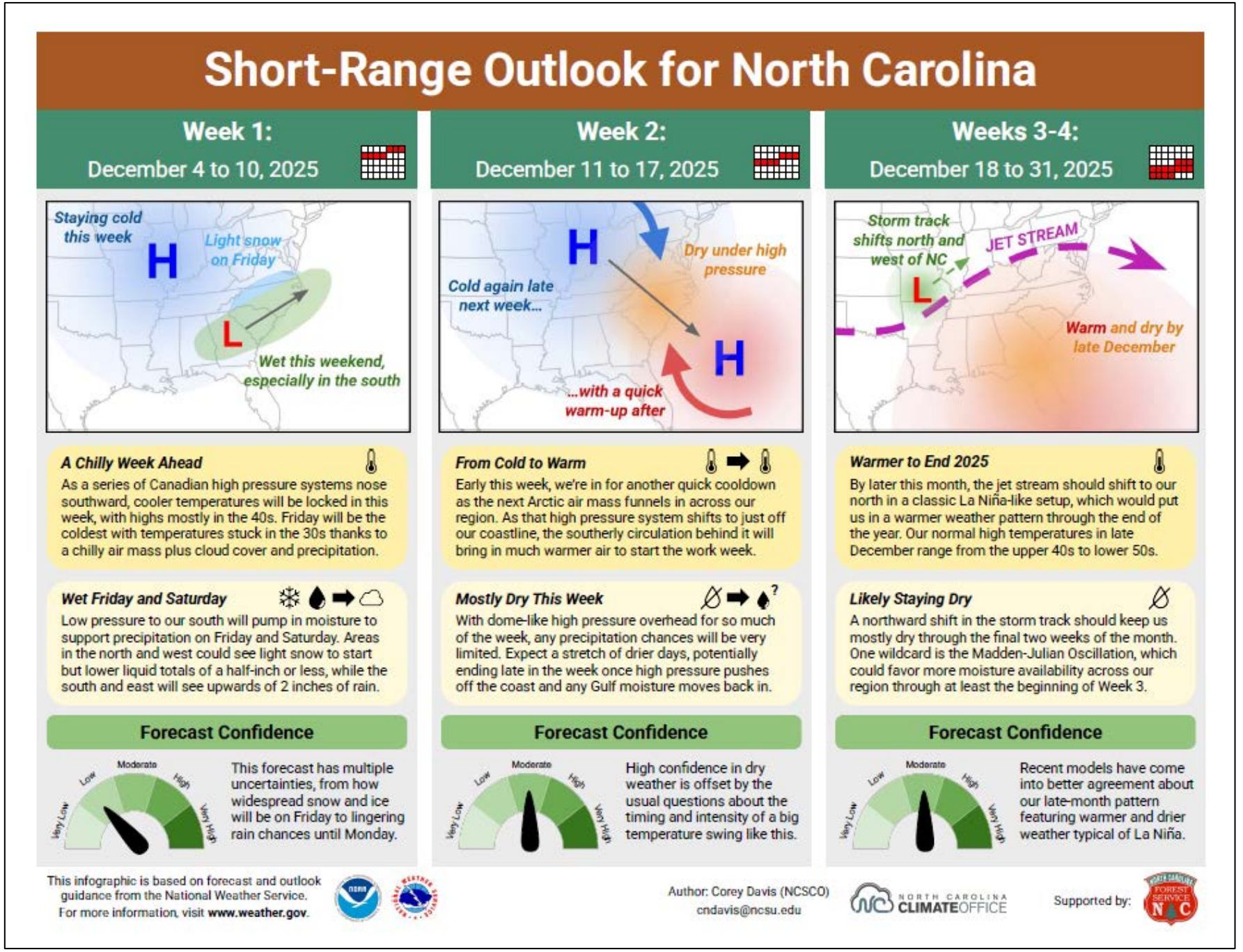






State Climate Office: Short-Range Monthly Outlook for NC

Released ***12/4/25***
Location: https://climate.ncsu.edu/fire/outlooks/

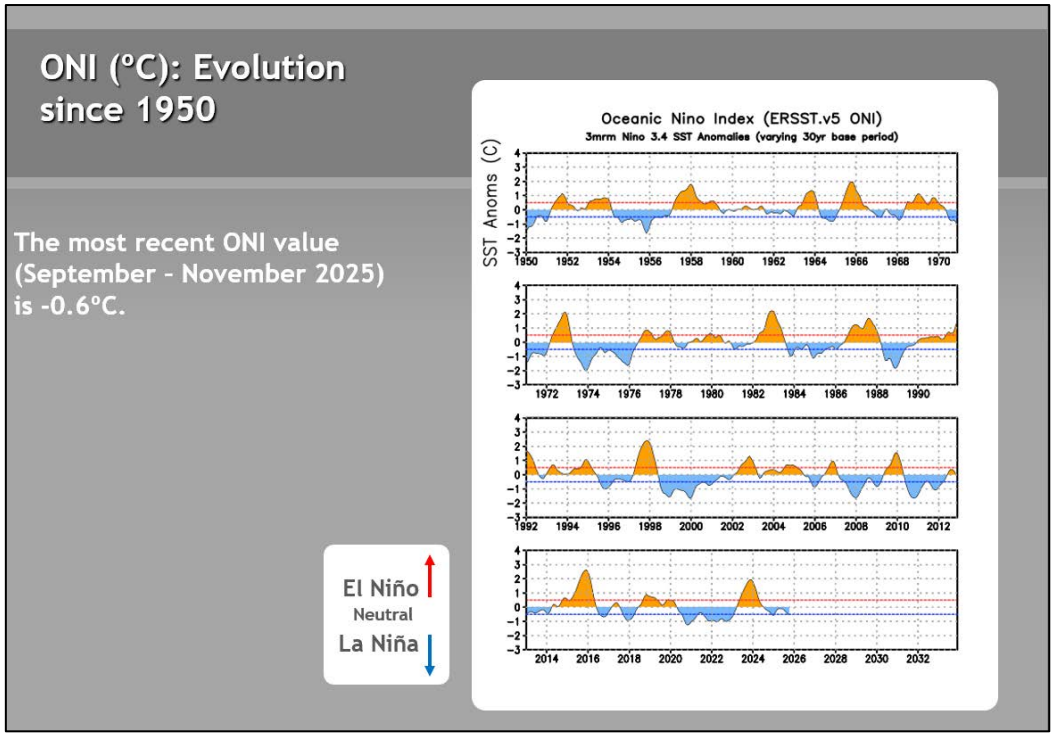


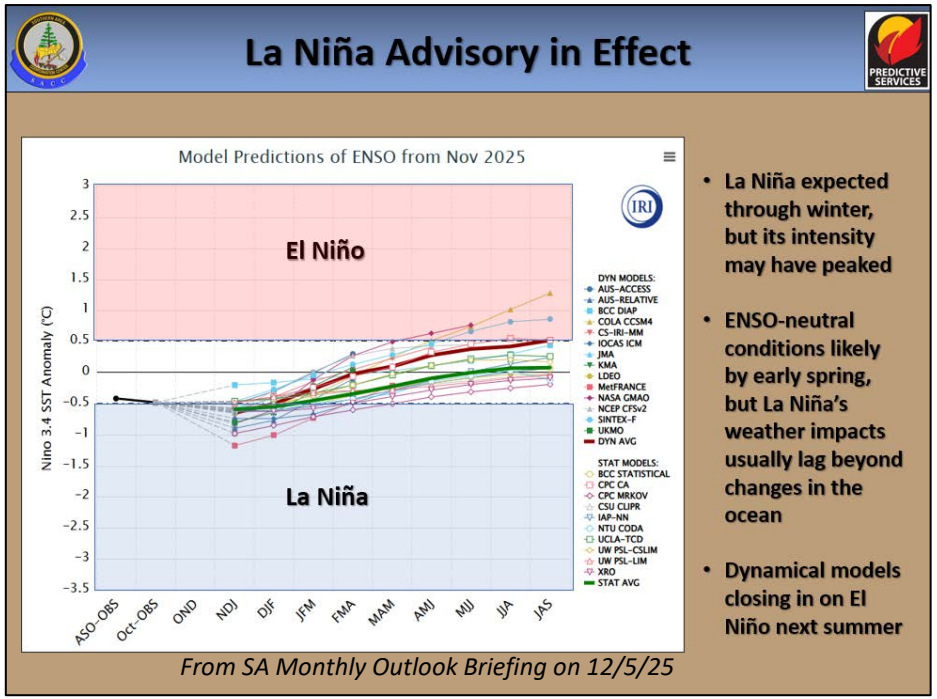
ENSO Notes from the CPC (12/11/25 Update)

ENSO Alert System Status: [La Niña Advisory]

La Niña is favored to continue for the next month or two, with a transition to ENSO-neutral most likely in January-March 2026 (68% chance).

ENSO, or El Nino Southern Oscillation, is a fluctuation in the sea surface temperature (SST) in the equatorial Pacific Ocean. Research has shown that even slight changes in the SST, particularly in area 3.4, can influence weather in North America. Generally, when SSTs are lower than normal, known as La Nina, NC has drier than normal conditions and can have more fire occurrence. However, La Nina also can lead to more tropical activity. El Nino, on the other hand, usually means wetter weather for NC, but less opportunity for tropical landfalls due to increased wind shear. In order to declare a La Nina, the departure from average SST must be at least -0.5° C (line shown in green) for 3 consecutive months. For El Nino, the departure must be at least 0.5° C above average for 3 consecutive months.





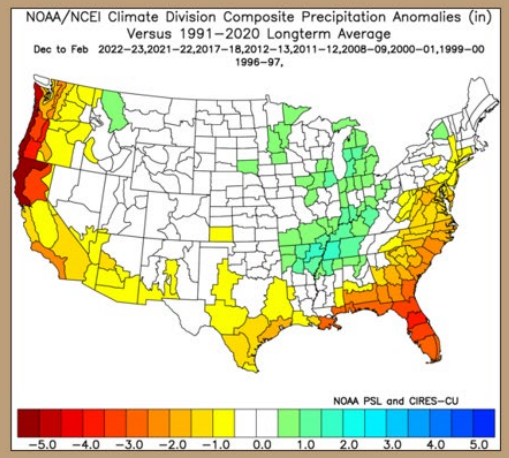
From the most recent CPC Diagnostic Discussion (ENSO Diagnostics Discussion):

The IRI multi-model predictions indicate La Niña will continue in the December-February (DJF) 2025-26 season, but then ENSO-neutral is favored for January-March (JFM) 2026 [Fig. 6]. Together with the North American Multi-Model Ensemble, the team continues to slightly support a weak La Niña through DJF (54% chance), before transitioning to ENSO-neutral in JFM. Even after equatorial Pacific SSTs transition to ENSO-neutral, La Niña may still have some lingering influence through the early Northern Hemisphere spring 2026 (e.g., CPC's seasonal outlooks). In summary, La Niña is favored to continue for the next month or two, with a transition to ENSO-neutral most likely in January-March 2026 (68% chance; [Fig. 7]).

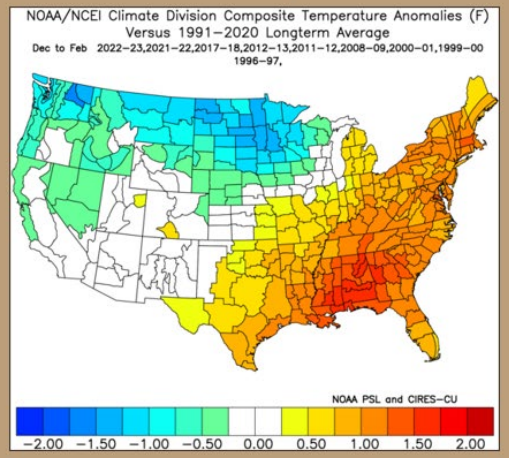
Slide Source: *https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/lanina/enso_evolution-status-fcsts-web.ppt*

Potential Analogs This Year

Winter Precipitation



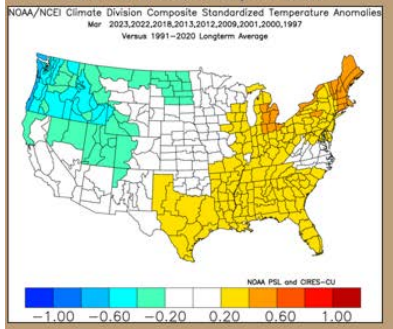
Winter Temperatures



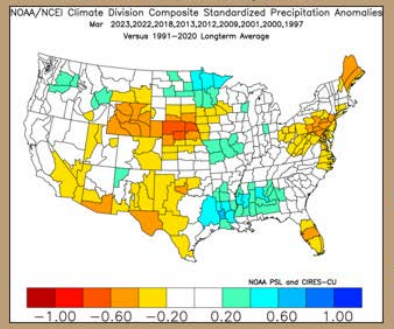
From SA Monthly Outlook Briefing on 12/5/25

Potential March Analogs

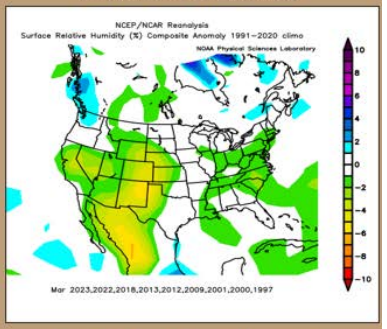
La Niña March Temperatures



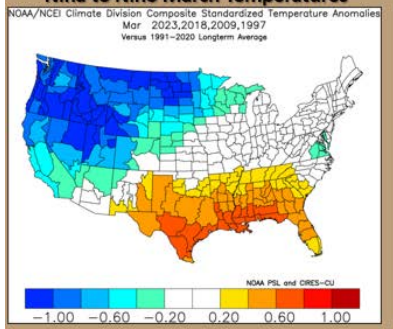
La Niña March Precipitation



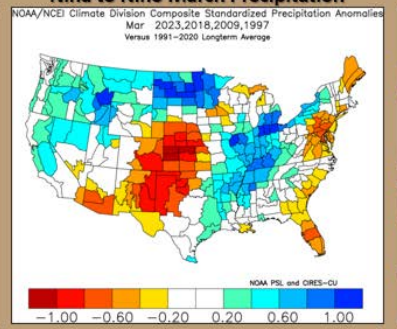
La Niña March Humidity



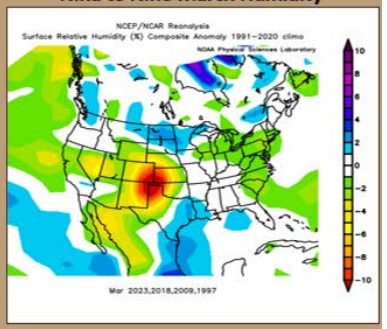
Niña to Niño March Temperatures



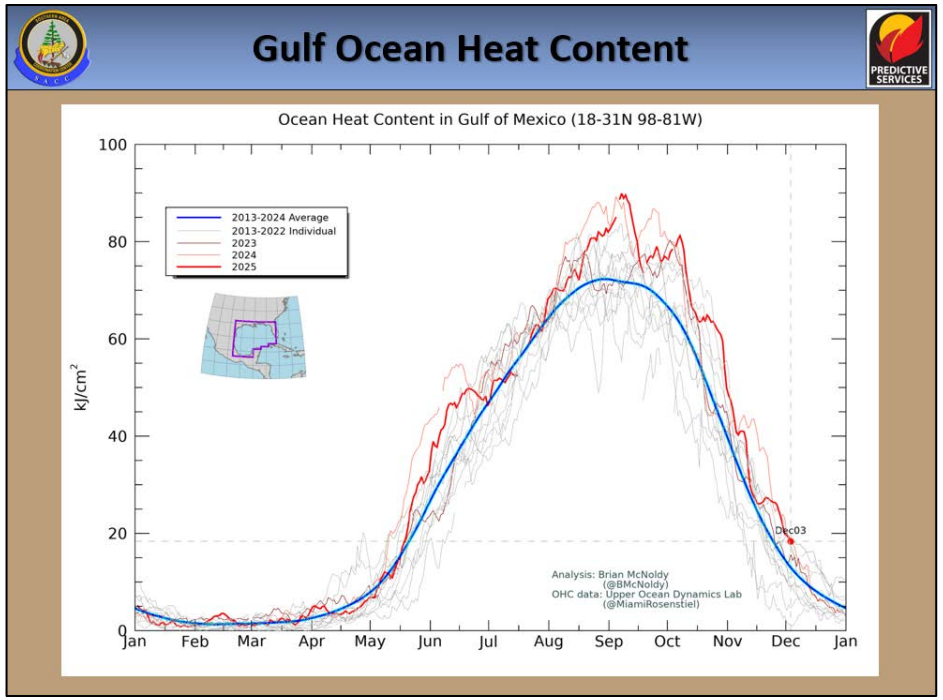
Niña to Niño March Precipitation

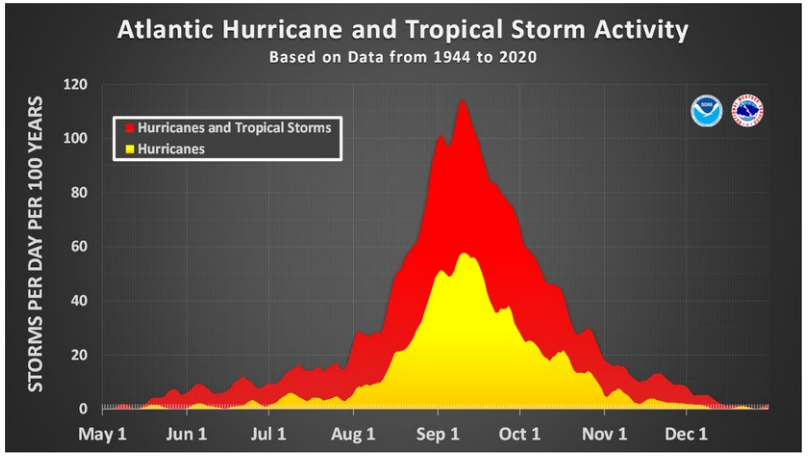


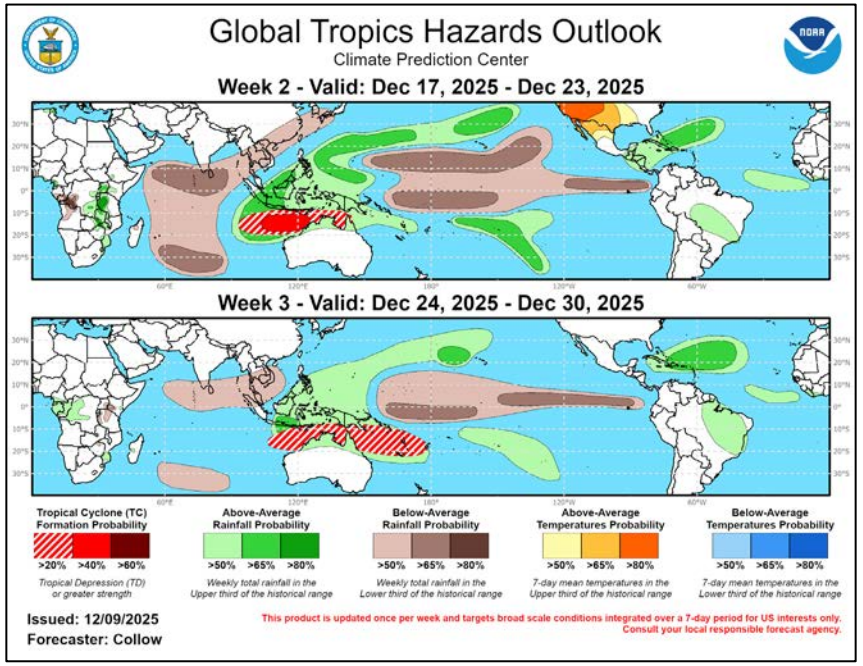
Niña to Niño March Humidity

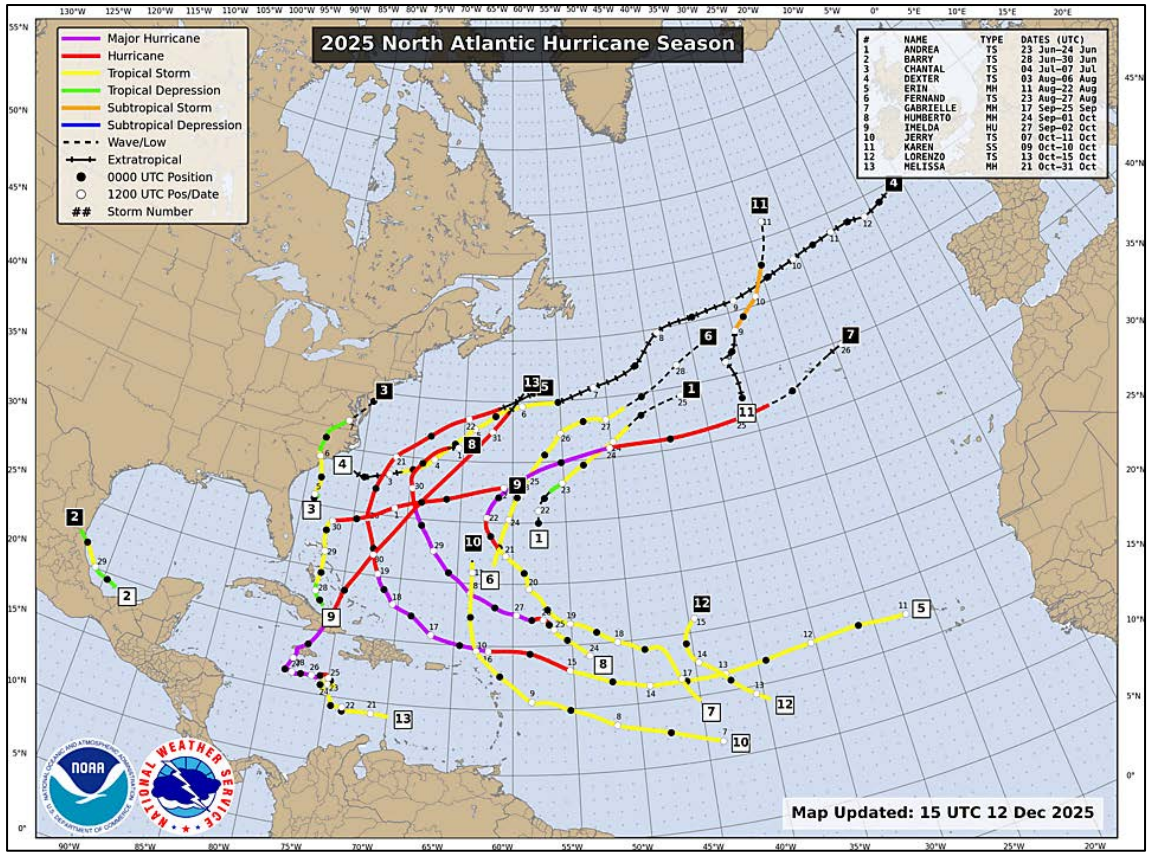


Tropical Related





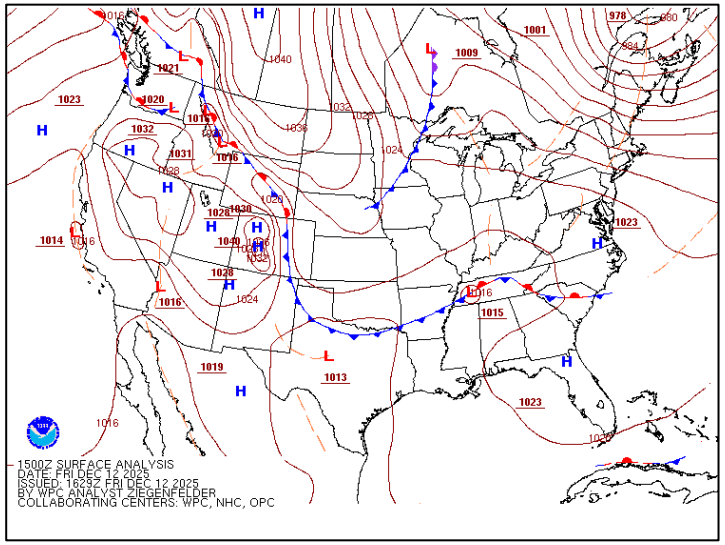




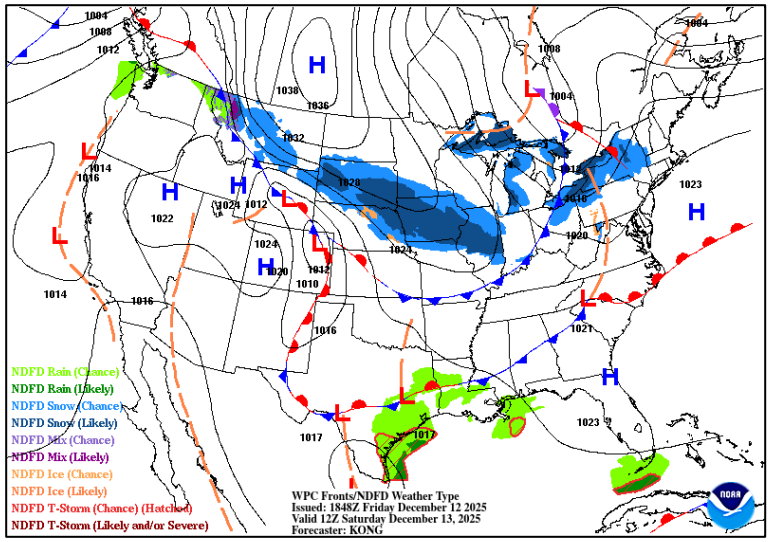
https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/data/tcr/?tex
t

WPC Forecasted Surface Fronts & Sea-Level Pressures

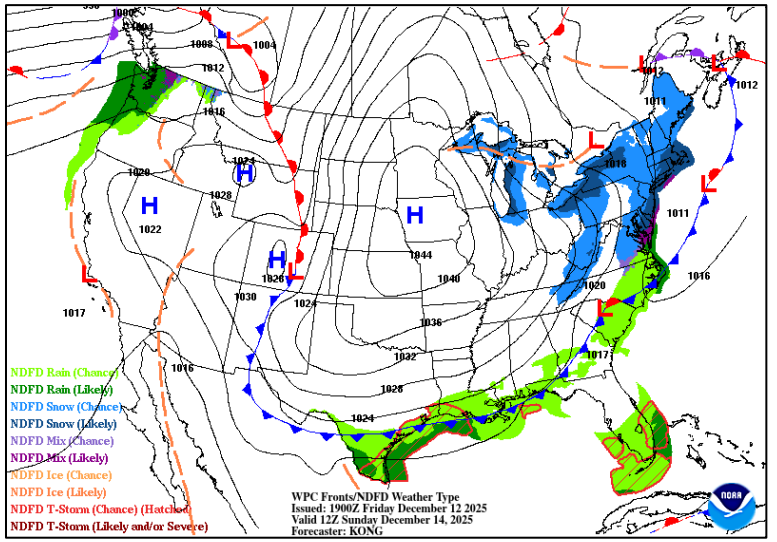
Day-1 @ 15Z Surface Analysis



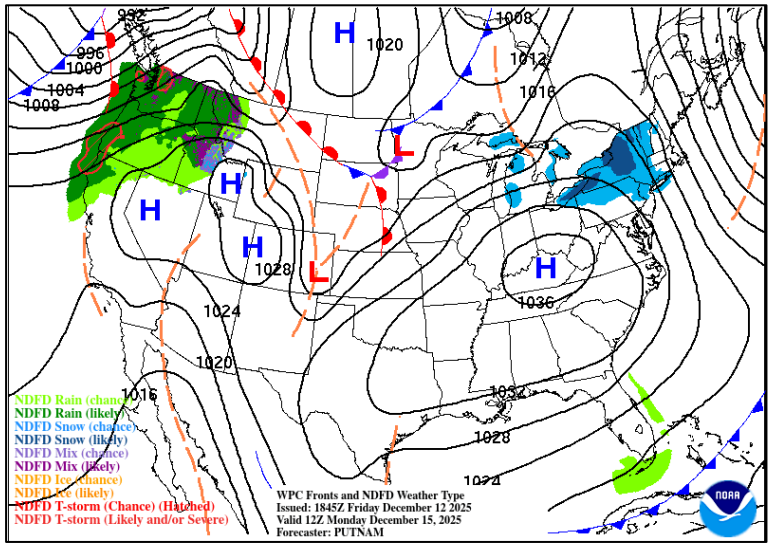
Day 2 - @ 12Z (0700 EST)



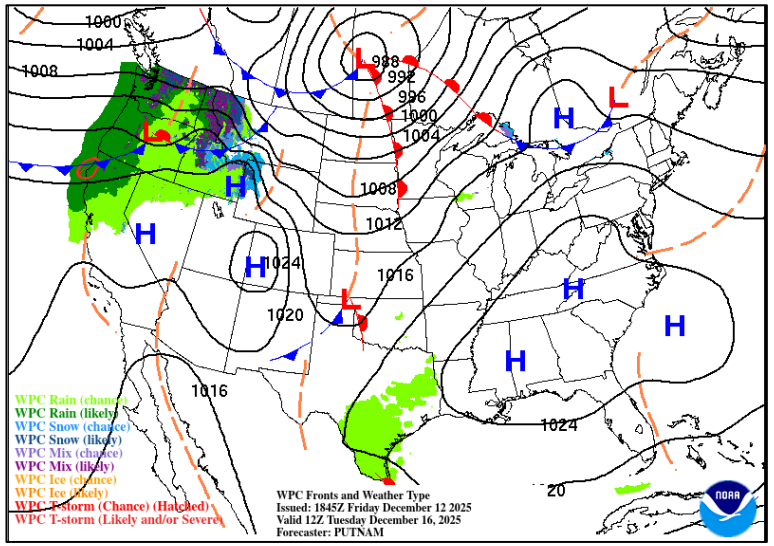
Day 3 @ 12Z (0700 EST)



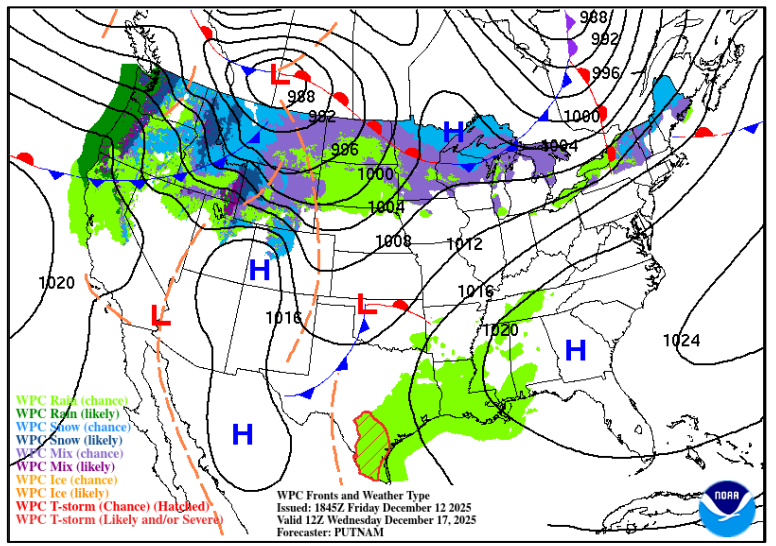
Day 4 @ 12Z (0700 EST)



Day 5 @ 12Z (0700 EST)



Day 6 @ 12Z (0800 EST)

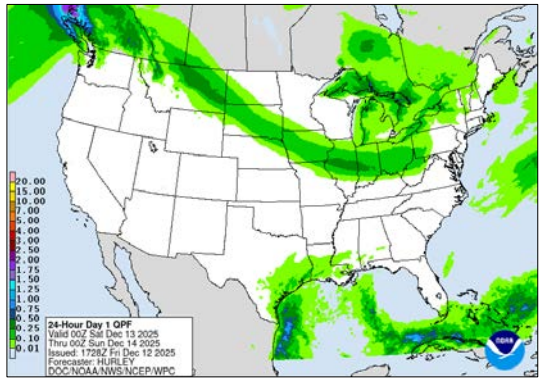


Location: https://www.wpc.ncep.noaa.gov/#

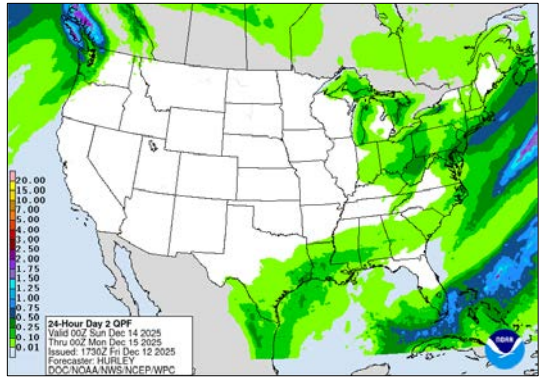
Quantitative Precipitation Forecast, 7-Day

Location: https://www.wpc.ncep.noaa.gov/#

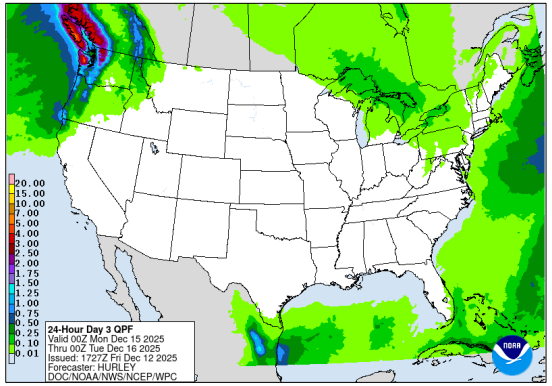
Day – 1



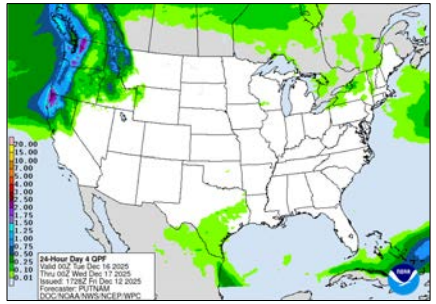
Day - 2



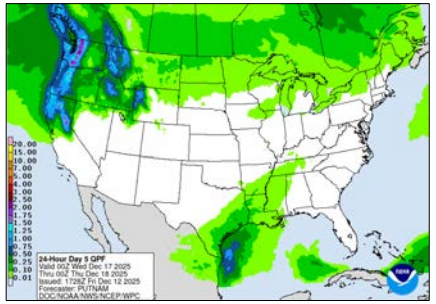
Day - 3



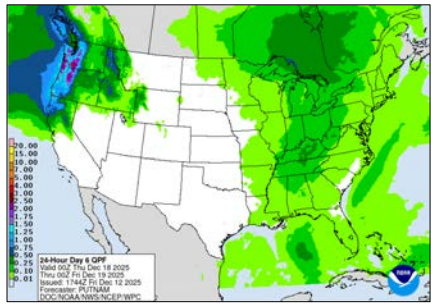
Day - 4



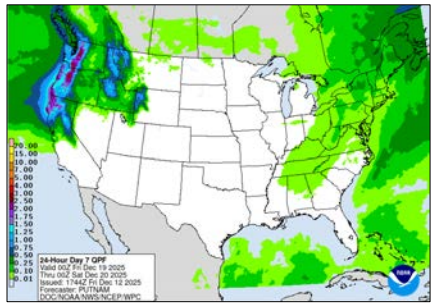
Day - 5



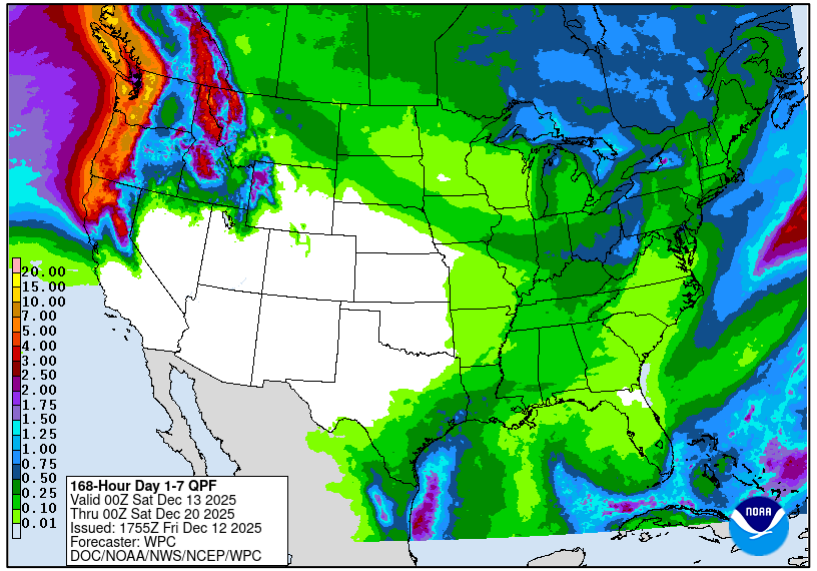
Day - 6



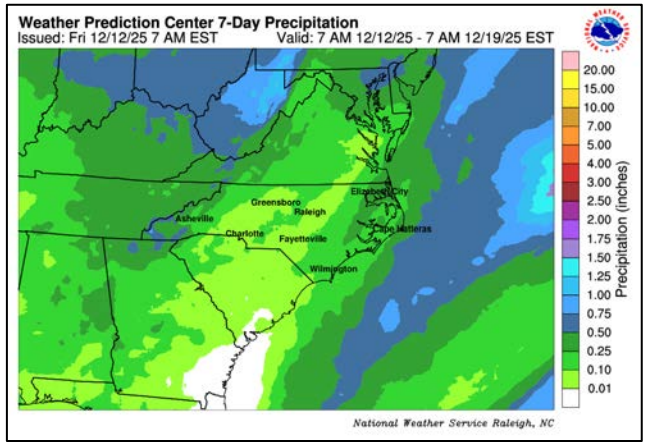
Day - 7

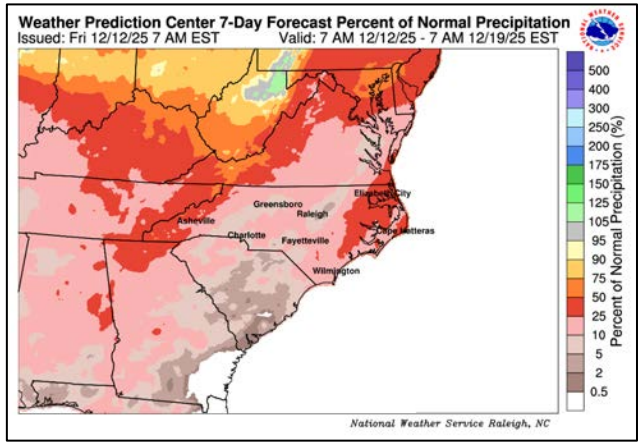


Days 1 – 7 QPF



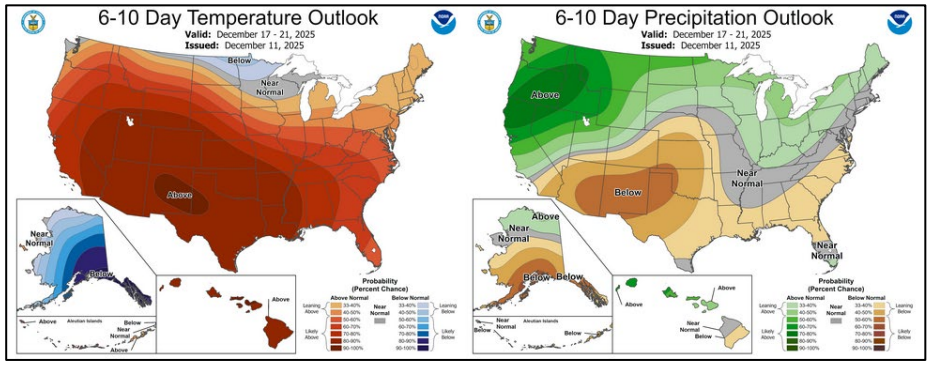
Zoom - Days 1 – 7 QPF

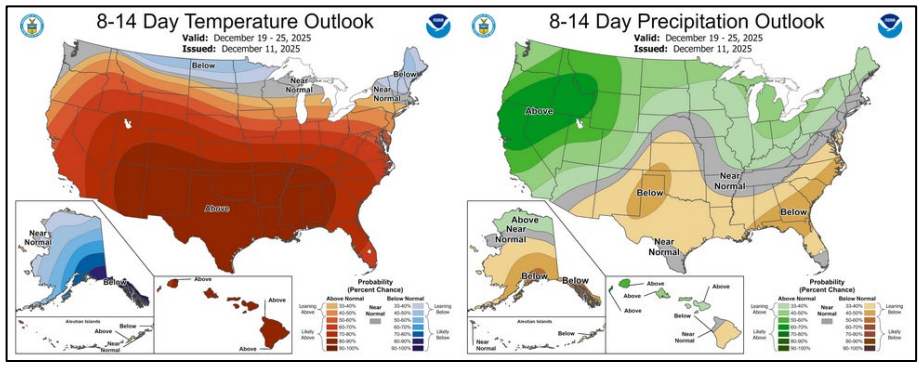


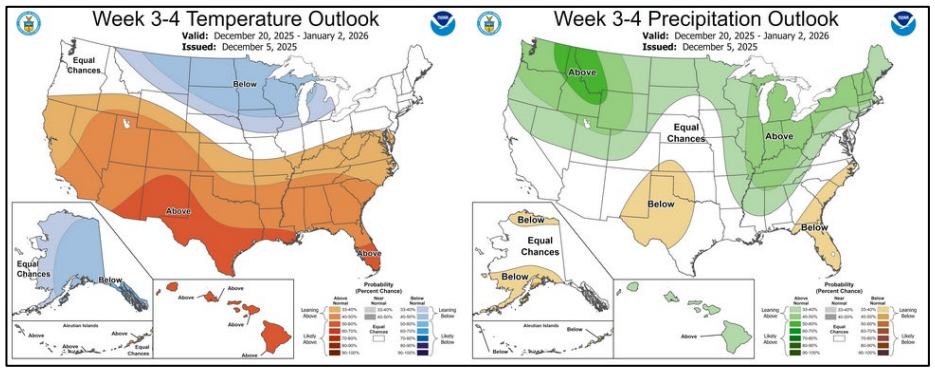


Temp & Precip Outlook

6-10 Day, 8-14 Day, Weeks 3-4, Seasonal (D/J/F, J/F/M, F/M/A)

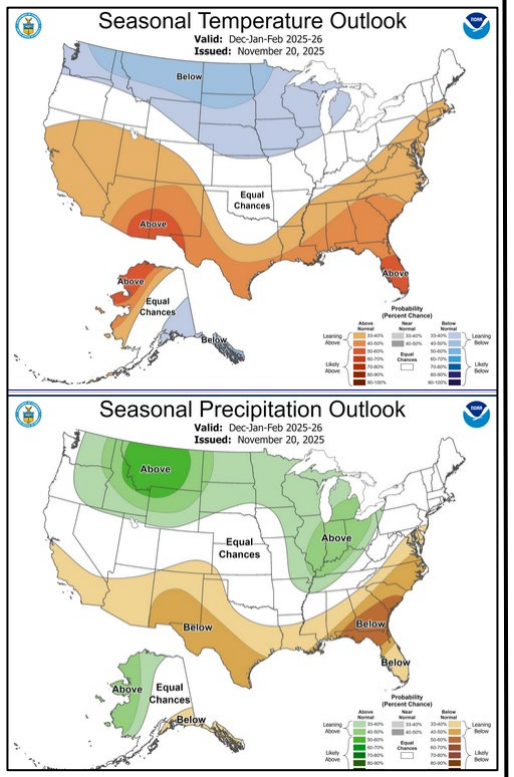




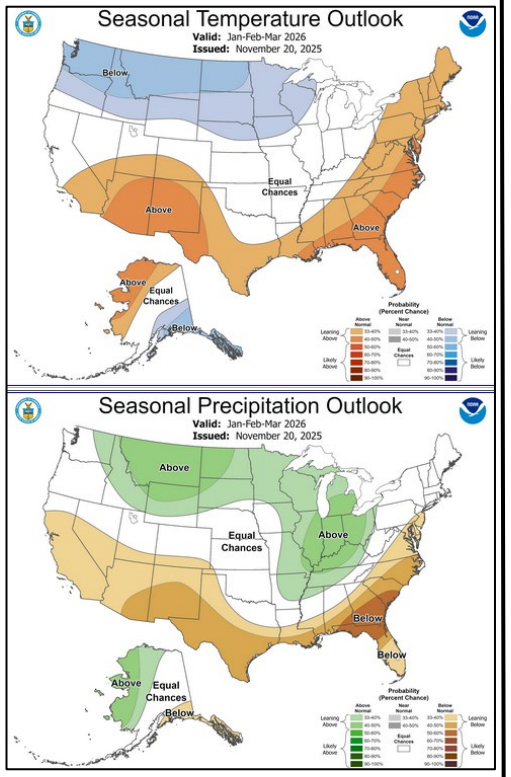


https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/long_range/fxus05.html

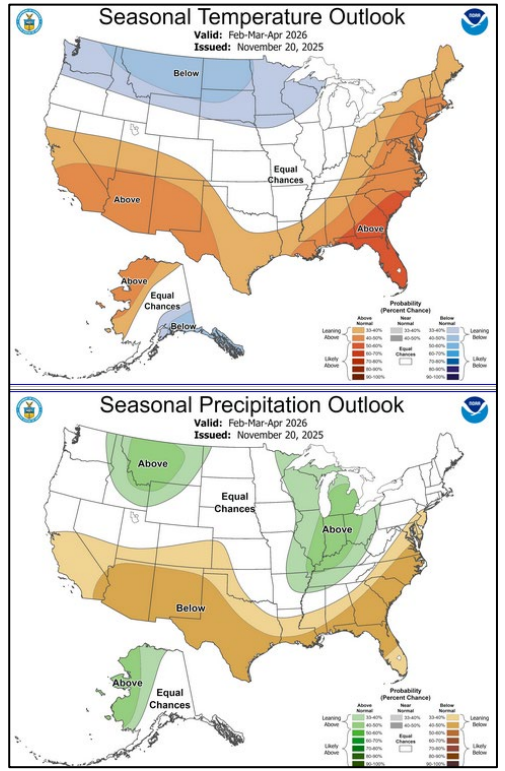
Dec-Feb



Jan-Mar



Feb-Apr

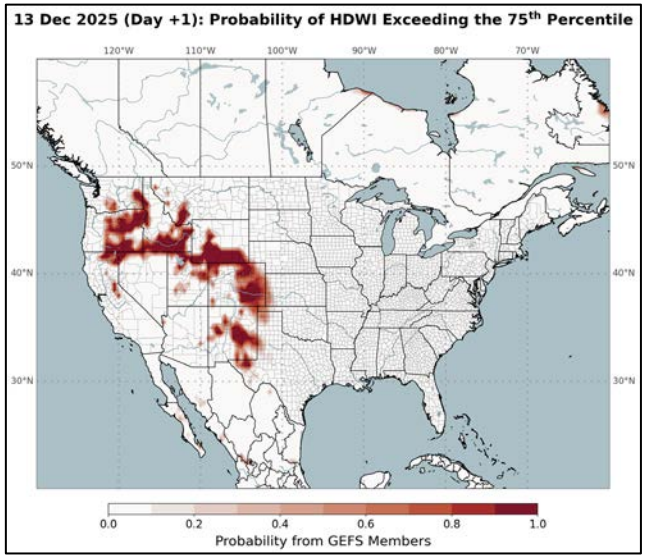


Last Updated by CPC on November 20th

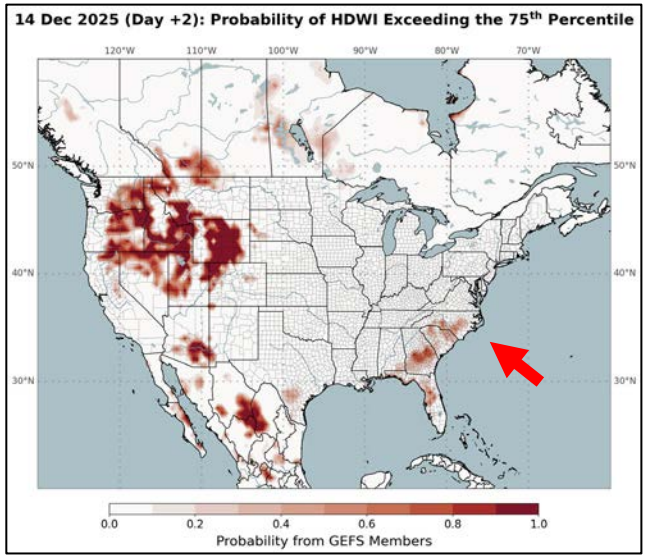
Source: https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/

Hot-Dry-Windy Index (HDW)

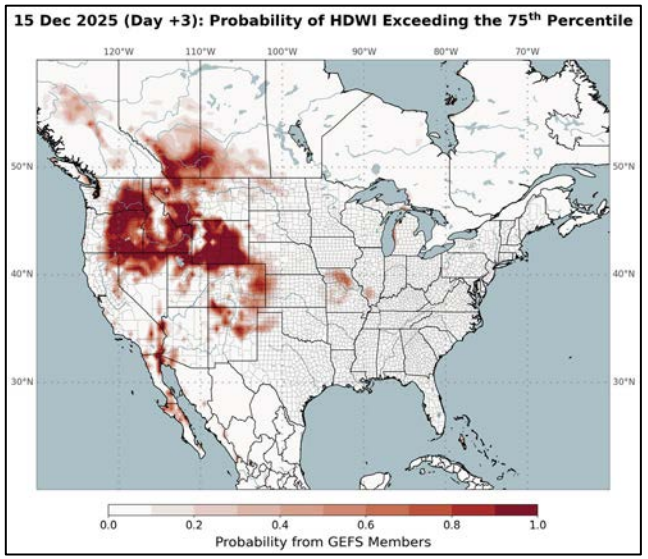
Saturday > 75th Percentile



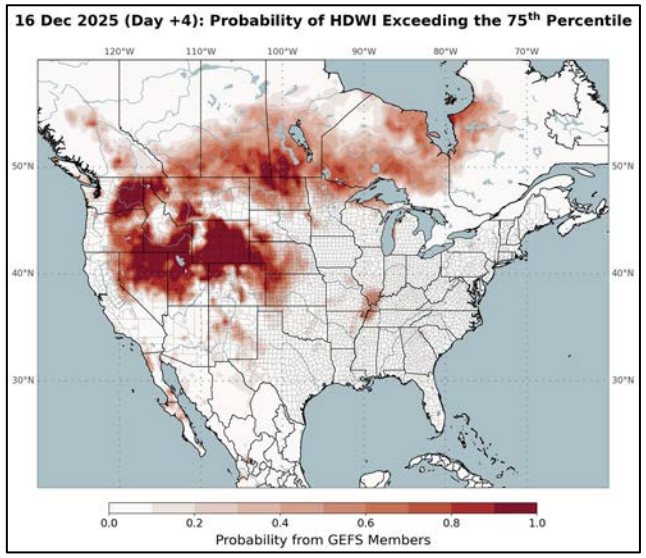
Sunday > 75th Percentile



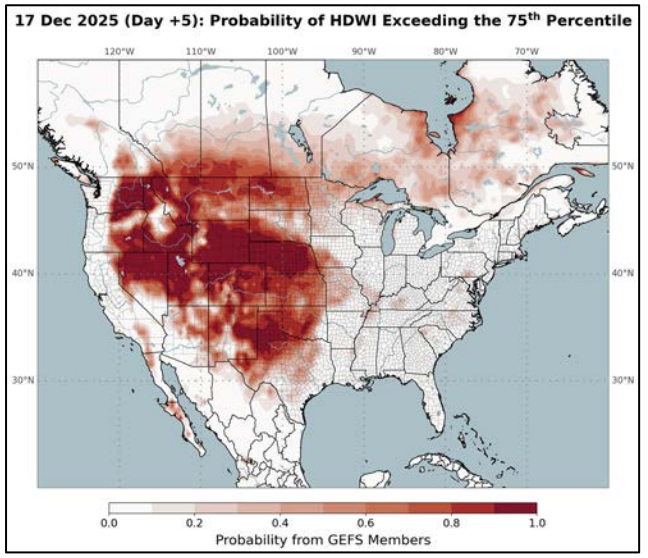
Monday > 75th Percentile



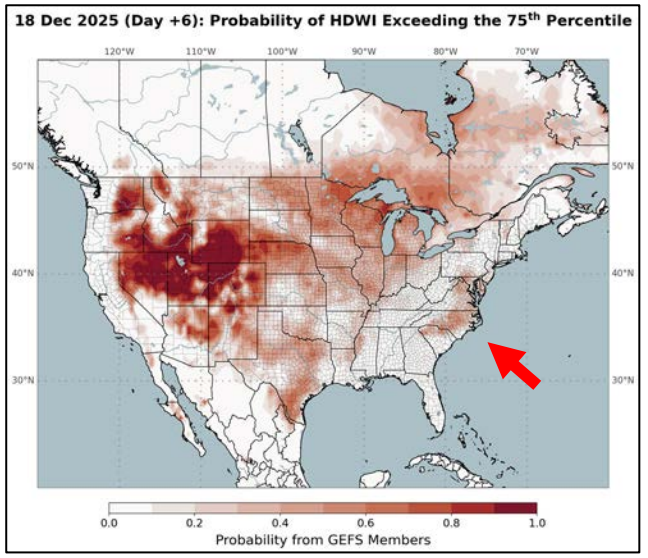
Tuesday > 75th Percentile



Wednesday > 75th Percentile



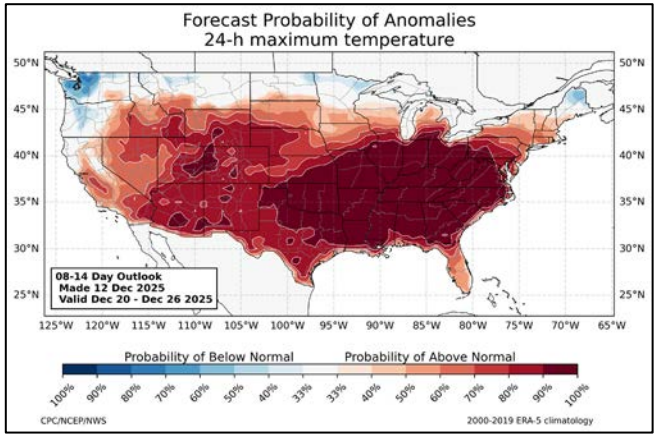
Thursday > 75th Percentile

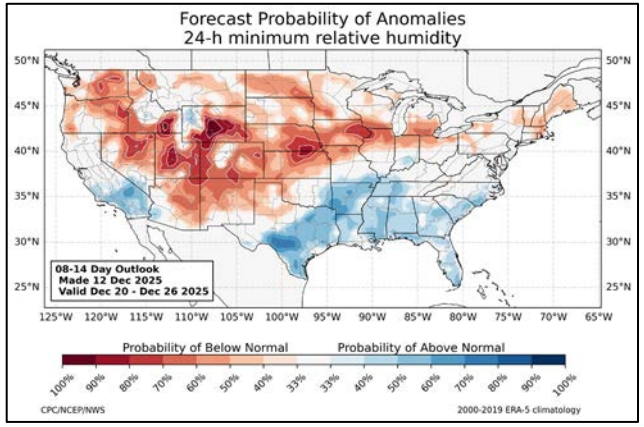


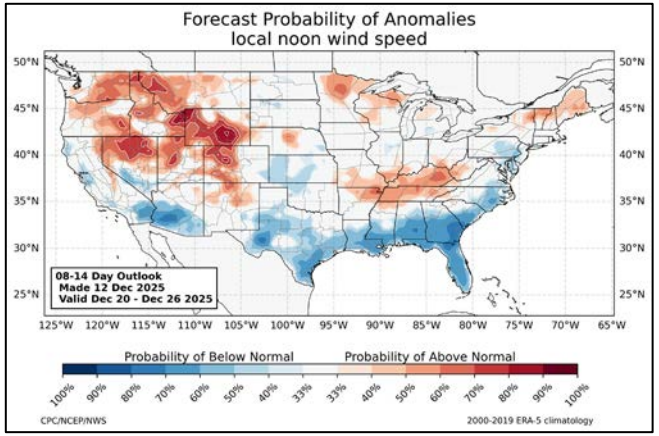
- Another visualization tool to pick up on broader weather, but with *limitations
- Only uses Max VPD (atmospheric moisture & temp) & Max Wind Speed to generate outputs
- Coarse Resolution - 0.5 Degree Grid
- No Account of Local Fuel Conditions and Topo

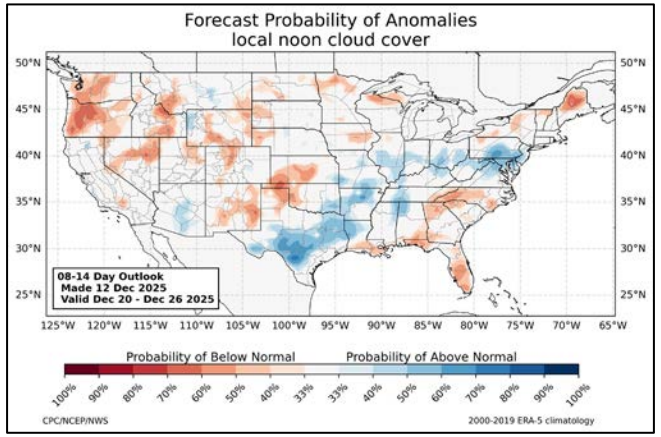
https://www.hdwindex.org/probs.html

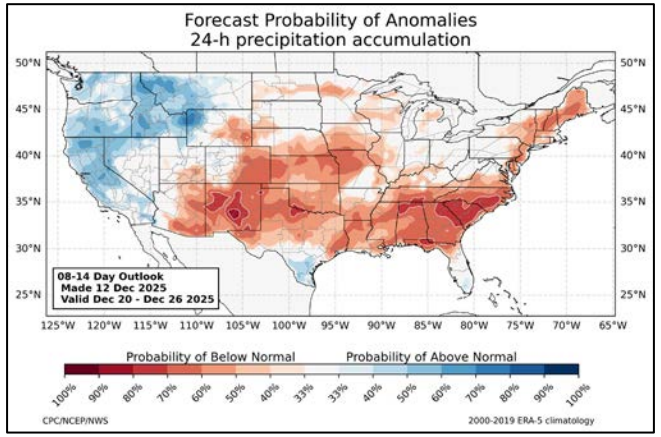
Week Two Forecast Anomalies: 12/20 - 12/26





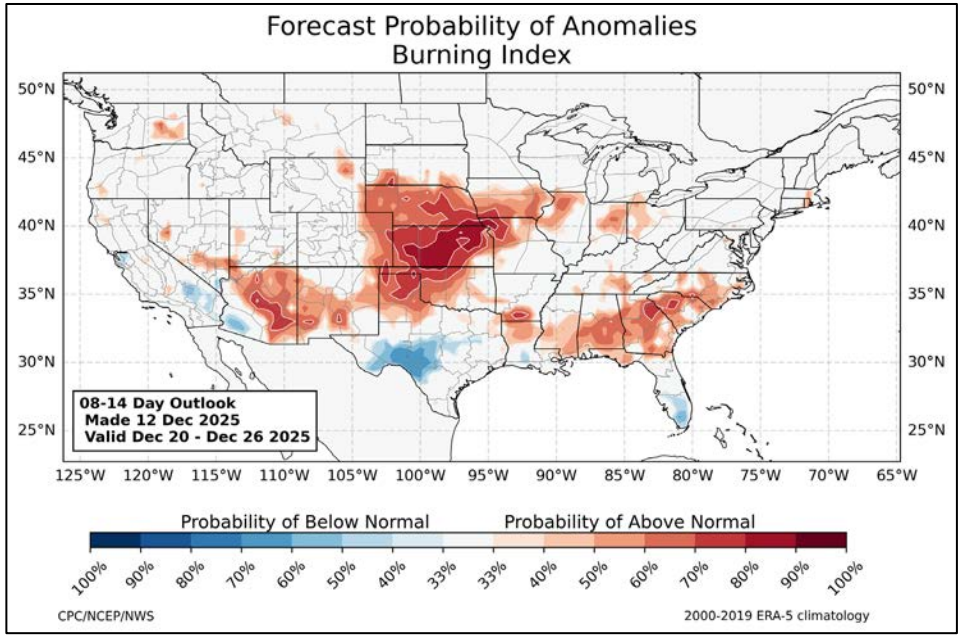


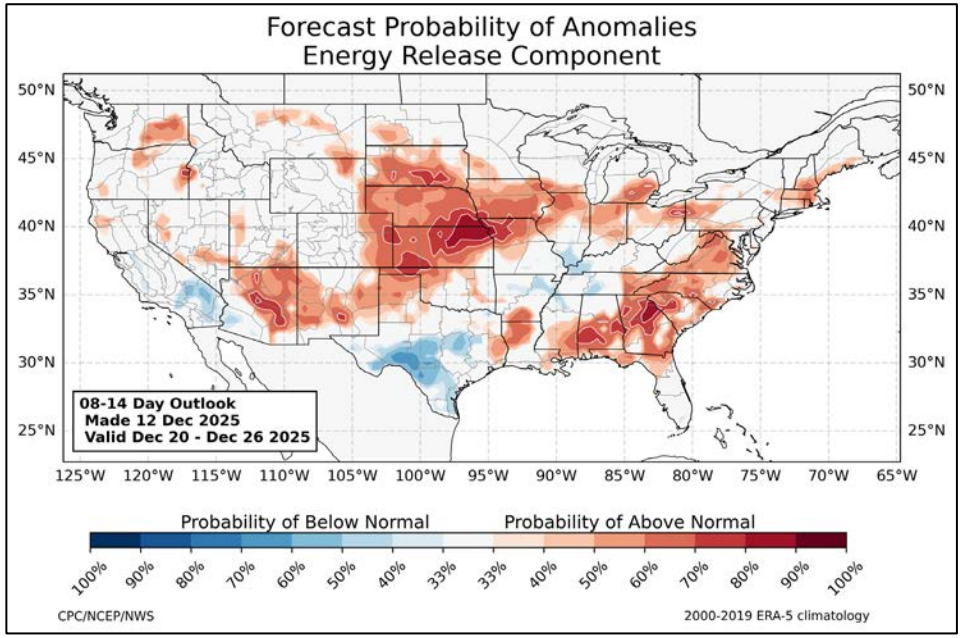




Important to note that there is significant forecast uncertainty as you go further out in time.

Warming and overall drying trend represented.



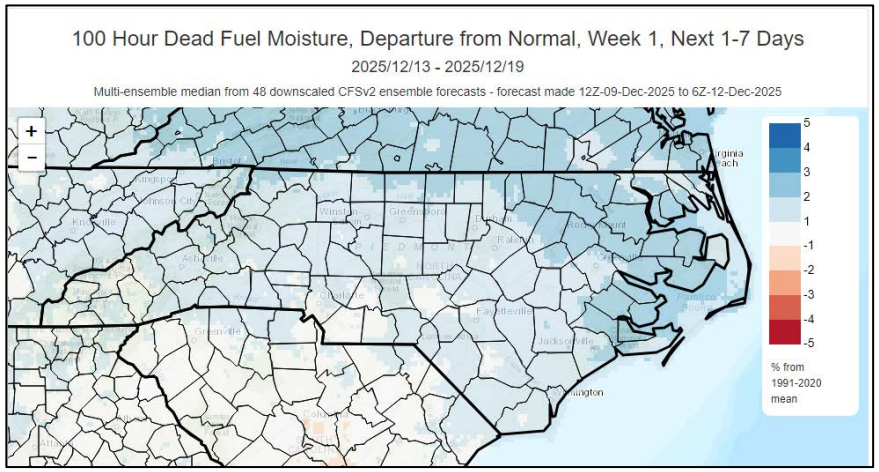


https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/people/mchen/fireWeather/cpc_wk2fw_index.html

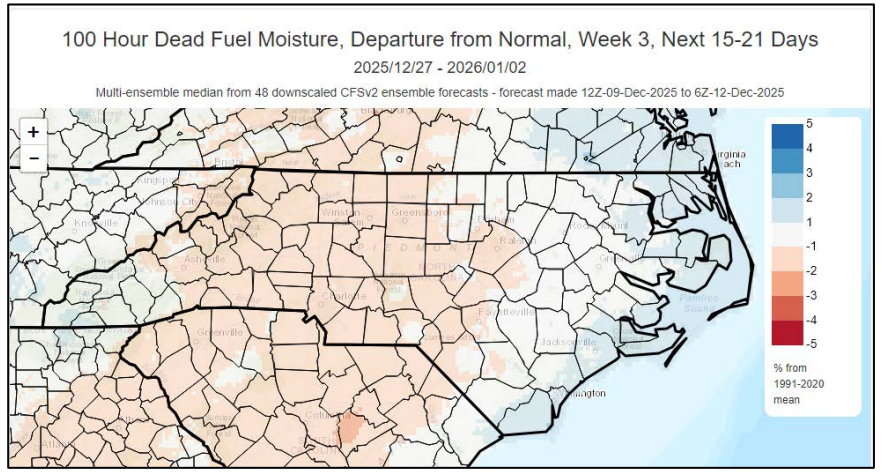
Modeled Departure from Normal by Week: 100-hr Fuels

Output relies on experimental forecast outputs and is subject to change

Week-1

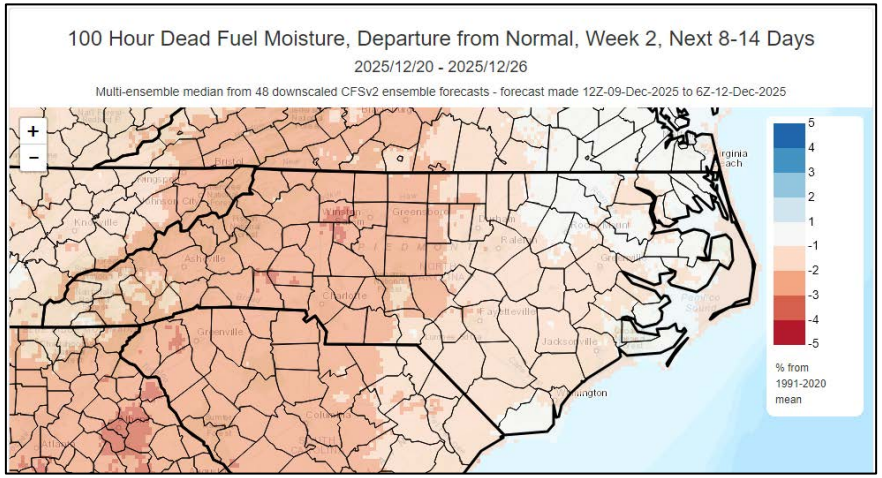


Week-3



This output can provide insight into general drying trends and potential impacts to overall fire danger, especially prior to full green-up or in drought conditions. Outputs relate to interactions of warmer/colder temps, moist/dry air masses, precip amt/duration, wind and overnight RH recovery trends.

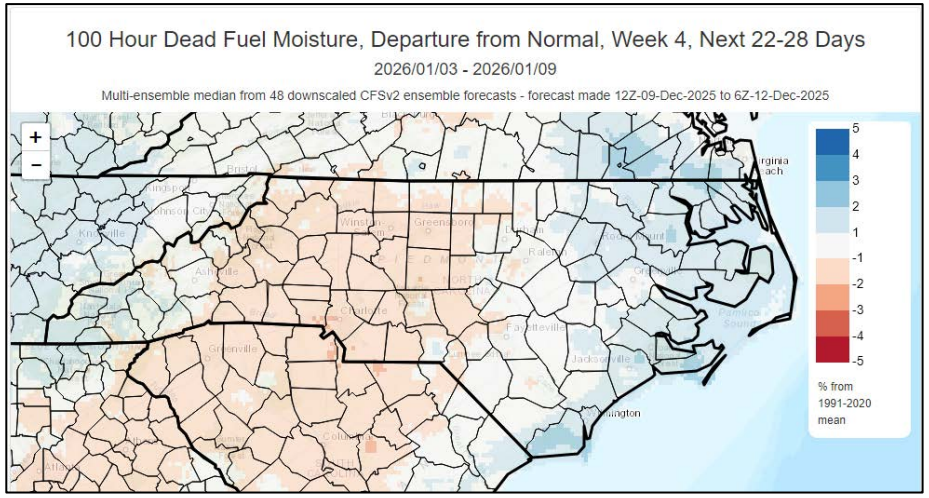
Week-2



Note that <u>modeled</u> impacts of warmer/drier conditions (lower % mc or "worse") is focused most intensely on Week 2 in the Mtns/West Piedmont.

Important to note that there is significant forecast uncertainty as you go further out in time, especially relating to any potential storm tracks.

Week-4



From: https://climatetoolbox.org/tool/Climate-Mapper

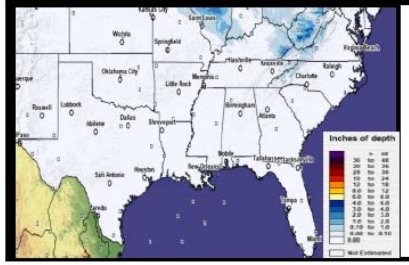
SACC Daily Outlook, Selected Snips from Friday – 12/12

https://gacc.nifc.gov/sacc/resources/predictive/sacc-daily-outlook.pdf

SACC Daily Outlook

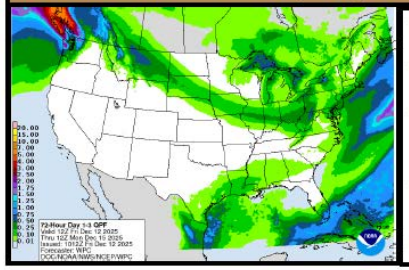
Friday, December 12, 2025

National Gridded Snowfall Analysis during 24h preceding 2025 December 12, 0:00 UTC



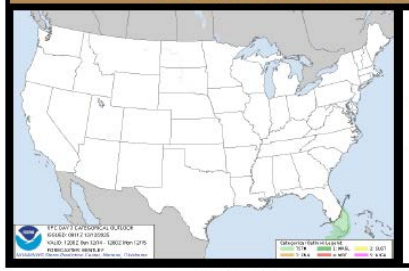
- Most of the Southern Area has not reported snowfall over the 24 hour period 7pm last night, Eastern Standard Time.
- Scattered areas of 1 to 4 inches were reported in the mountains of eastern KY, VA, and NC.
- Isolated areas of lighter accumulations were reported in western KY, and the higher elevations of TN, NE AL, and North GA.

Forecast Rainfall/Liquid Equivalent for Today Through Sunday



- Most of the Southern Area is forecast to see little to no rainfall through Sunday.
- The SE third of TX and LA may see up to a quarter of an inch, mainly today and tomorrow.
- MS, AL, Central GA, the mountains of TN and NC, northern and eastern KY, the SW VA Mts, and northern VA may see around a tenth to two tenths of an inch.
- South FL is forecast to see the heaviest rain, with around an inch possible, mainly Saturday and Sunday
- PR/VI may also see some shower activity.

Potential for Severe Thunderstorms This Weekend



- The Storm Prediction Center is not forecasting any potential of organized severe weather.
- Sunday may see some thunderstorm activity in South FL.

Please contact your local National Weather Service office for spot forecasts and the latest watches and warnings.

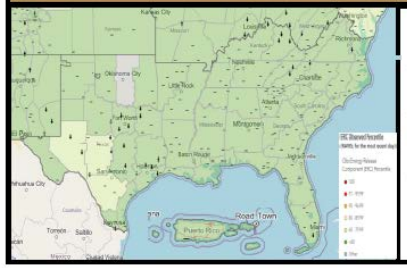
SACC Daily Outlook

Friday, December 12, 2025

Probability of Greater that 4 Inches of Snow Today Through Saturday Morning

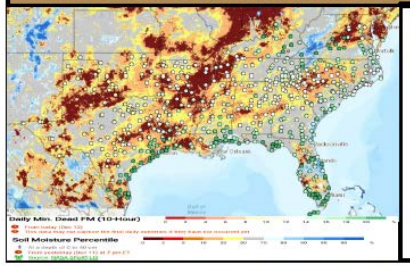
- Snowfall is not forecast to be over 4 inches for almost the entire area this weekend.
- The exception os for today through tonight in the mountains of SW VA, where there is up to a 40% probability.

Observed/Forecast ERC Y's



- The ERC-Y's are reporting in below the 60th percentile across almost the entire Southern Area.
- The exception is Central and West TX, where the ERC-Ys are reporting between the 64th and 68th percentile.
- The model forecast show a downward or stagnant trend across the Southern Area.

10 Hour Dead Fuel Moisture with 0-40cm Soil Moisture Percentiles(Shaded)



- Most of the Southern Area is reporting 10-hr Fuel moistures below 16%.
- The exceptions are South TX and South FL, where moistures are between 20% and 25%.
- Central and West, as well as the TX/OK Panhandles are reporting FM as low as 7%.
- The soil moistures down to 40 cm have shown improvement, although there are still large areas of soil moistures below 10%, mostly west of the MS River, MS, Central and North AL, Central GA, western SC, western NC, northern VA, and areas in FL.

Please contact your local National Weather Service office for spot forecasts and the latest watches and warnings.

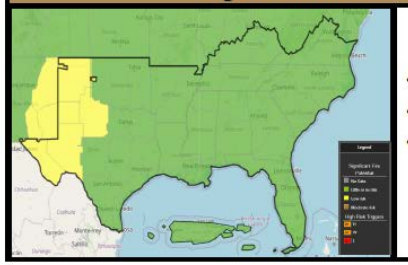
SACC Daily Outlook

Friday, December 12, 2025

Significant Potential for Today

- **High Risk:** None.
- **Moderate Risk:** None.
- **Low Risk:** West Texas and the Texas Panhandle south for low RH and dry fuels.

Significant Fire Potential for Tomorrow



- **High Risk:** None.
- **Moderate Risk:** None.
- **Low Risk:** The TX/OK Panhandles, NW TX. And West Texas, and the Trans-Pecos in Texas for low RH and dry fuels.

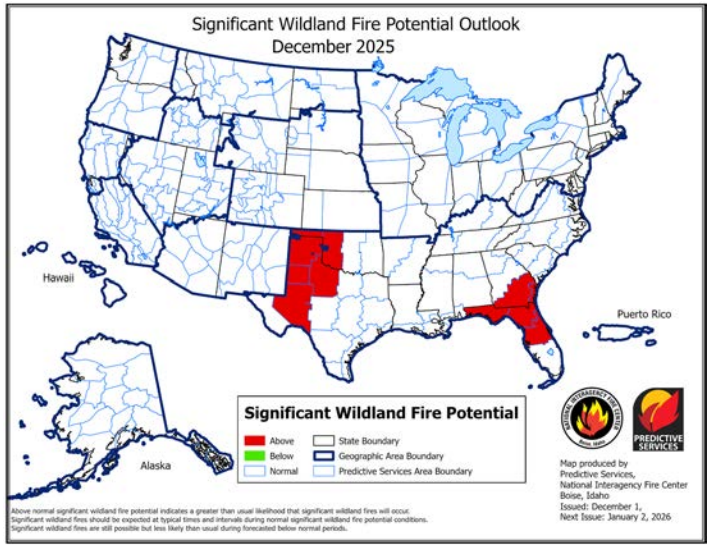
Significant Fire Potential for Sunday

- **High Risk:** None.
- **Moderate Risk:** None.
- **Low Risk:** South AL, Central and South GA, Central SC, the SC coastal plain, and NW FL for low RH and dry fuels.

National 7-Day Significant Fire Potential Outlook

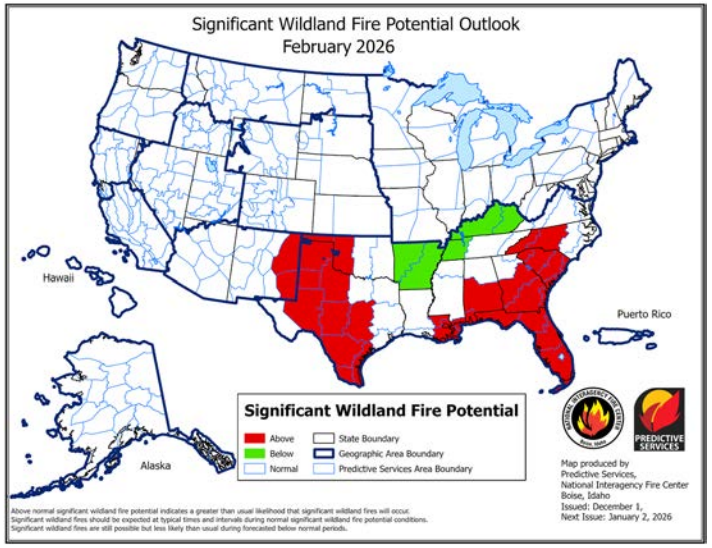
Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook: *Updated 12/1/25*

December



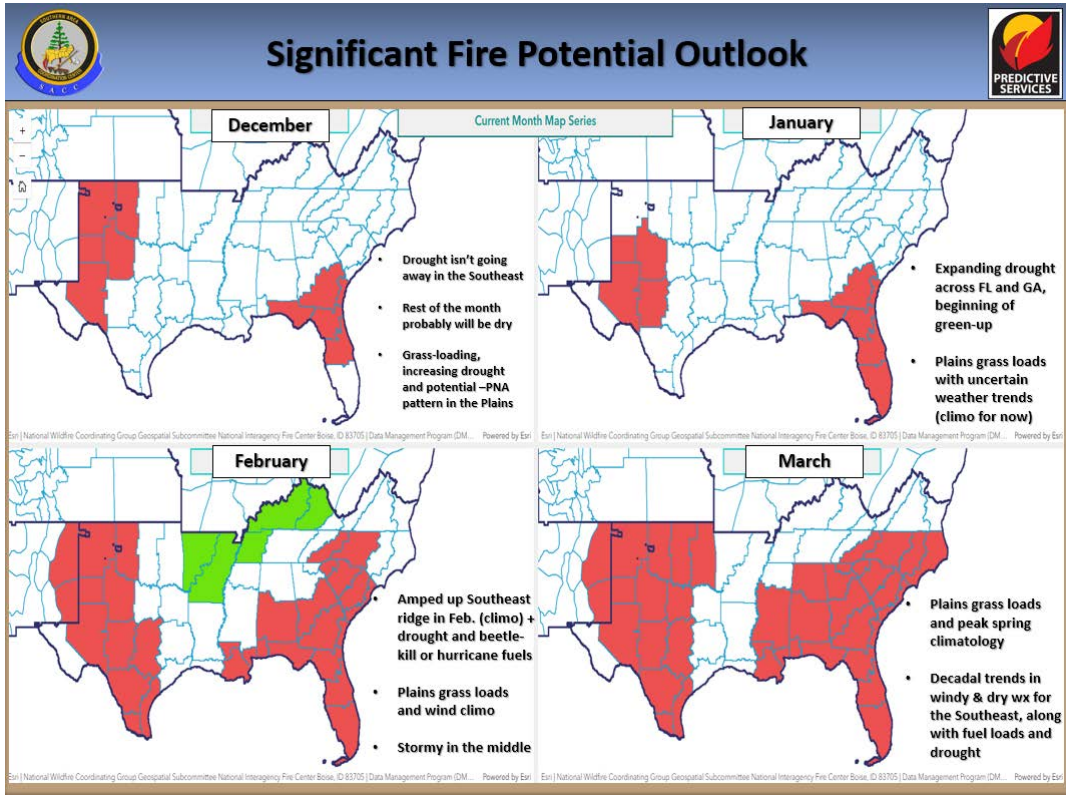
January

February



March

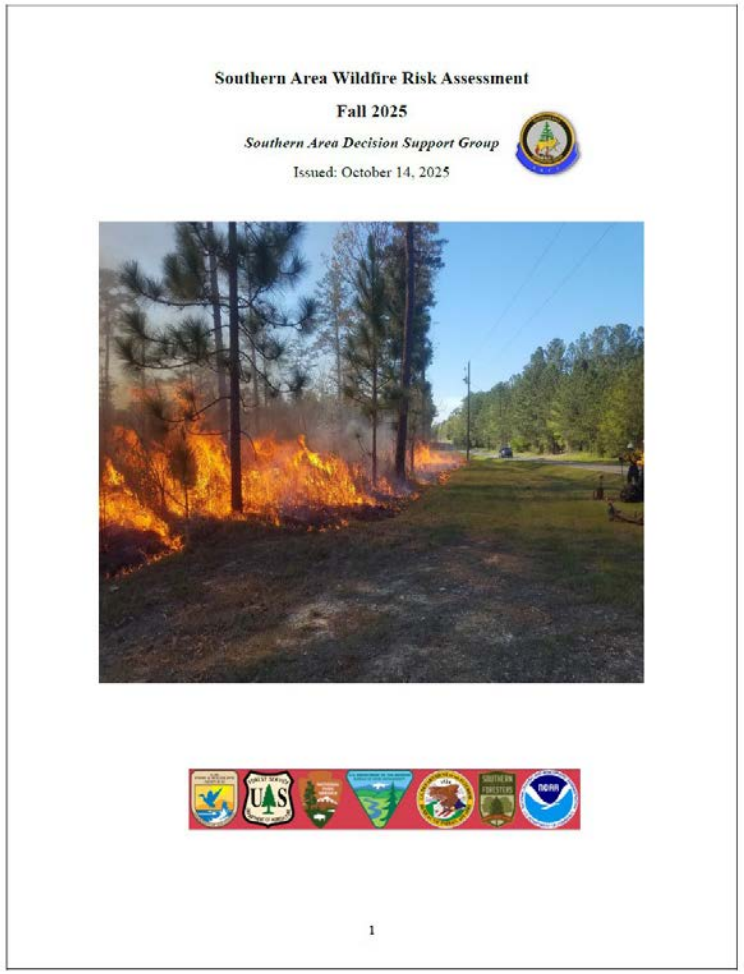
https://www.nifc.gov/nicc-files/predictive/outlooks/monthly_seasonal_outlook.pdf



From SA Monthly Outlook Briefing on 12/5/25

**A significant fire is one that requires resources from outside the district (other than aviation). IA potential is based more on shorter term weather factors. Just a few days of dry weather can increase IA activity considerably as we have consistently seen from year to year.*

Southern Area – Fall 2025 Wildfire Risk Assessment



Southern Area Wildfire Risk Assessment

Fall 2025

Southern Area Decision Support Group

Issued: October 14, 2025

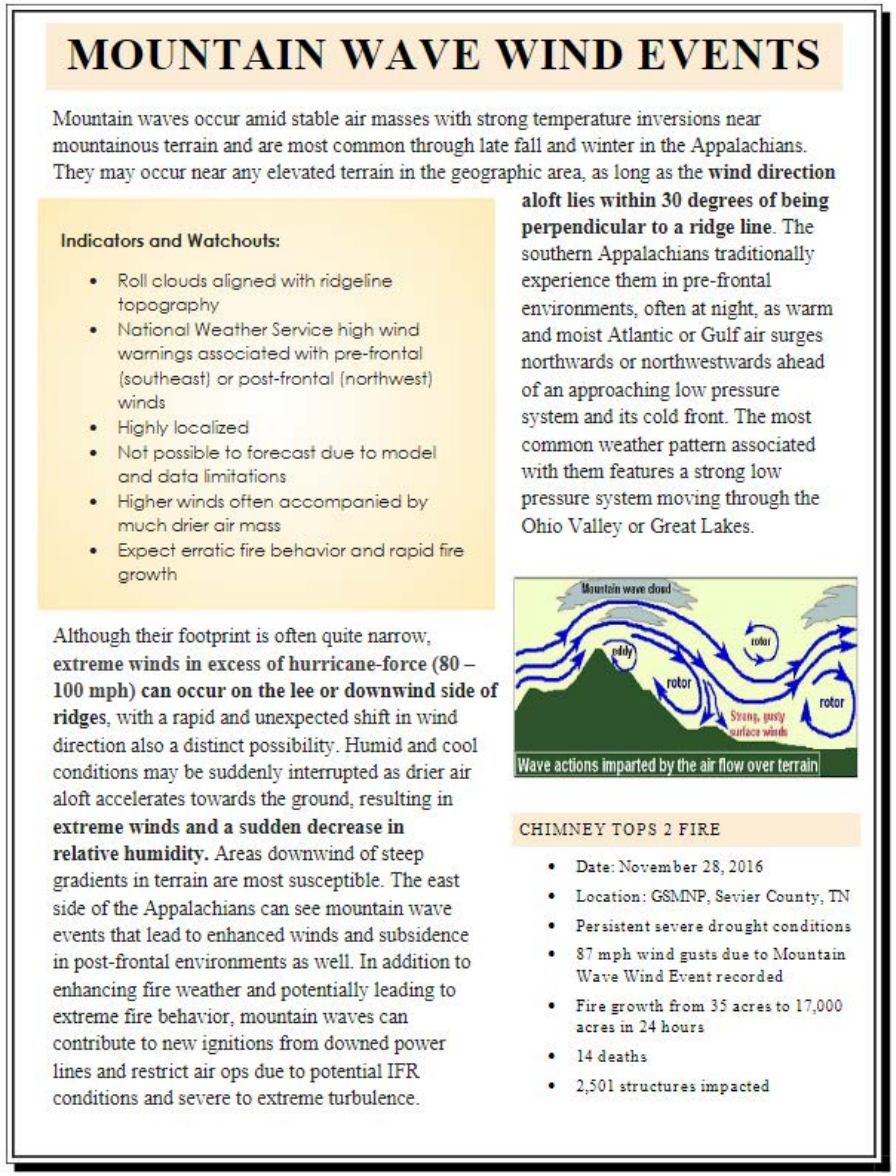
1

Please review the newly released SA Wildfire Risk Assessment for Fall 2025 – it discusses overall regional concerns as well as fire effective weather patterns.

Take special note of "Appendix A – Critical Fire Weather and Environmental Conditions" starting on page 58.

https://gacc.nifc.gov/sacc/resources/predictive/SAFallRiskAssessment_2025_final.pdf

Southern Area – Mountain Wave Wind Event Note



MOUNTAIN WAVE WIND EVENTS

Mountain waves occur amid stable air masses with strong temperature inversions near mountainous terrain and are most common through late fall and winter in the Appalachians. They may occur near any elevated terrain in the geographic area, as long as the **wind direction aloft lies within 30 degrees of being perpendicular to a ridge line**. The southern Appalachians traditionally experience them in pre-frontal environments, often at night, as warm and moist Atlantic or Gulf air surges northwards or northwestwards ahead of an approaching low pressure system and its cold front. The most common weather pattern associated with them features a strong low pressure system moving through the Ohio Valley or Great Lakes.

Indicators and Watchouts:

- Roll clouds aligned with ridgeline topography
- National Weather Service high wind warnings associated with pre-frontal (southeast) or post-frontal (northwest) winds
- Highly localized
- Not possible to forecast due to model and data limitations
- Higher winds often accompanied by much drier air mass
- Expect erratic fire behavior and rapid fire growth

Although their footprint is often quite narrow, **extreme winds in excess of hurricane-force (80 – 100 mph) can occur on the lee or downwind side of ridges**, with a rapid and unexpected shift in wind direction also a distinct possibility. Humid and cool conditions may be suddenly interrupted as drier air aloft accelerates towards the ground, resulting in **extreme winds and a sudden decrease in relative humidity.** Areas downwind of steep gradients in terrain are most susceptible. The east side of the Appalachians can see mountain wave events that lead to enhanced winds and subsidence in post-frontal environments as well. In addition to enhancing fire weather and potentially leading to extreme fire behavior, mountain waves can contribute to new ignitions from downed power lines and restrict air ops due to potential IFR conditions and severe to extreme turbulence.

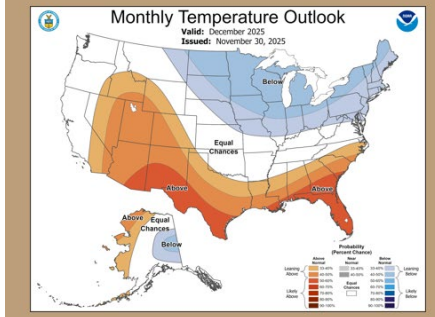
Wave actions imparted by the air flow over terrain

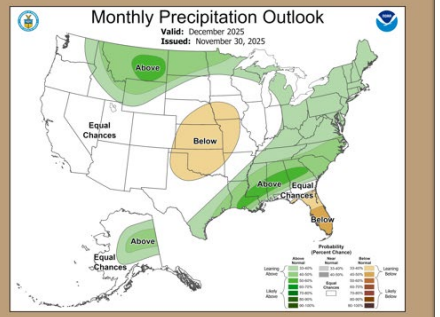
CHIMNEY TOPS 2 FIRE

- Date: November 28, 2016
- Location: GSMNP, Sevier County, TN
- Persistent severe drought conditions
- 87 mph wind gusts due to Mountain Wave Wind Event recorded
- Fire growth from 35 acres to 17,000 acres in 24 hours
- 14 deaths
- 2,501 structures impacted

https://gacc.nifc.gov/sacc/predictive/outlooks/MountainWavesFactSheet.pdf

December Outlook





- Precipitation outlook an overreaction to a forecast from WPC – another artifact of NOAA's NBM issues
- Rainfall axis trended much farther south from what models were showing 6-10 days ago
  - Perhaps the result of a Sudden Stratospheric Warming event and subsequent negative Arctic Oscillation
- Resumption of a more typical La Niña storm track expected later in December

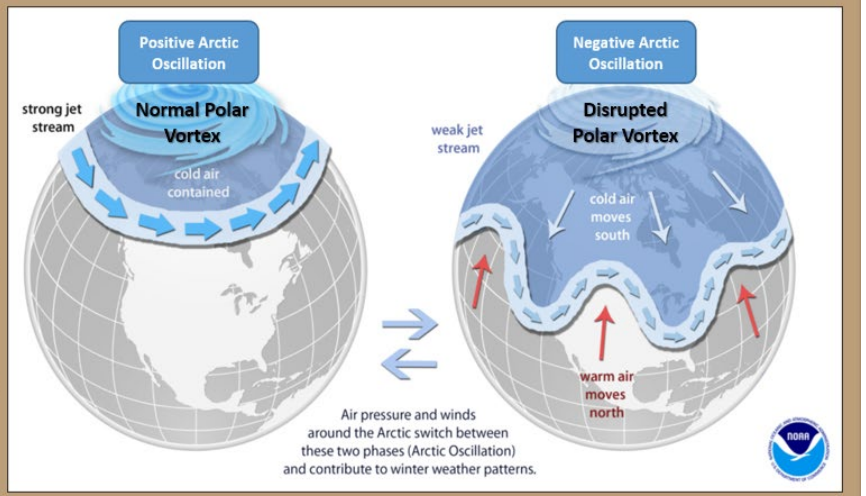
Next Couple Weeks

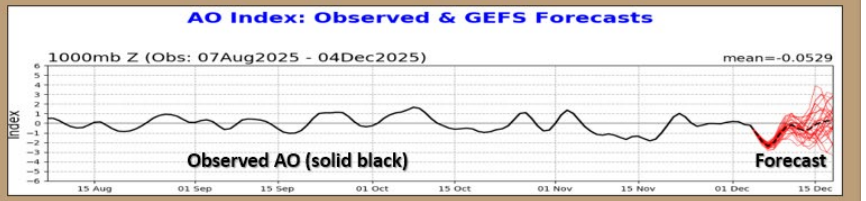
- Dry pattern resumes for most of the region by early next week
  - Good fire: burn baby burn
- Cold in the East with multiple clipper systems bringing shots of Arctic air; downslope winds on occasion for VA, Carolinas, GA
- Dry cold fronts for coastal areas, with some snow showers possible every few days in the Apps
- Mostly warm and dry in the Plains; warm/dry/breezy tomorrow in West TX; some dry return flow potential next week
- Pattern change expected in the week leading up to Christmas
  - Watching for high wind events in the Plains
  - Severe weather risks may return to central areas, along with rain
  - Warm weather returns to the Southeast

From SA Monthly Outlook Briefing on 12/5/25

Arctic Oscillation

- Sudden Stratospheric Warming events causing a disrupted polar vortex may be more likely this winter
- Could increase the odds for Arctic air intrusions to the Gulf Coast and East Coast, but precipitation patterns are more dependent on how the AO interacts with other oscillations, including ENSO
- SSWs lead to considerably uncertainty and large swings in the forecast





Daily Adjective Rating Outputs for each FDRA (FM-Z)
(Observed on Left, Forecast on Right)

Low | Moderate | High | Very High | Extreme

FDRA	Recent Data (Calculated from hourly estimates)							Forecast Data (Calculated using hourly forecasts)					
	FRI DEC 5	SAT DEC 6	SUN DEC 7	MON DEC 8	TUE DEC 9	WED DEC 10	THU DEC 11	FRI DEC 12	SAT DEC 13	SUN DEC 14	MON DEC 15	TUE DEC 16	WED DEC 17
Southern Highlands	L	L	L	L	L	L	M	M	L	L	M	M	L
Central Mountains	L	L	M	L	L	M	M	M	M	L	M	M	M
Northern Highlands	L	L	M	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
Blue Ridge	L	L	L	L	L	L	M	M	L	L	L	L	L
Western Piedmont	L	L	L	L	L	L	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
Sandhills	L	L	L	L	L	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
Eastern Piedmont	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	M	M	M	M	M	M
Southern Coast	L	L	L	L	L	L	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
Northern Coast	L	L	L	L	L	L	M	M	M	M	M	M	M

Hazard Matrix Outputs for each FDRA (FM-Z)

Current Statewide Hazard Summary for NC

Click on any daily Hazard Level to view the calculation details for that FDRA.

FDRA	Recent Hazard Levels (Based on the final forecasts for each date)							Forecasted Hazard Levels (Based on the latest forecasts)						
	FRI DEC 5	SAT DEC 6	SUN DEC 7	MON DEC 8	TUE DEC 9	WED DEC 10	THU DEC 11	FRI DEC 12	SAT DEC 13	SUN DEC 14	MON DEC 15	TUE DEC 16	WED DEC 17	THU DEC 18
Southern Highlands	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	N/A
Central Mountains	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	1	N/A
Northern Highlands	1	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	N/A
Blue Ridge	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	N/A
Western Piedmont	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	2	2	2	N/A
Sandhills	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	N/A
Eastern Piedmont	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	N/A
Southern Coast	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	N/A
Northern Coast	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	2	2	2	N/A

The FDRA SIG Averages are applied to generate Percentiles and Color Coding For "All-Days" using new period of record (2010-2024) for SIG stations. Values are based on FEMS processor outputs.

Fcst. Daily Min. DFM (10-Hr) Pctl. for FDRAs in North Carolina

FDRA	Fri Dec 12	Sat Dec 13	Sun Dec 14	Mon Dec 15	Tue Dec 16	Wed Dec 17
Southern Highlands	33.3%	46.6%	65.8%	46.6%	33.3%	33.3%
Central Mountains	46.5%	56.4%	76.5%	71.1%	65.1%	65.1%
Northern Highlands	77.9%	77.9%	81.9%	77.9%	73.4%	73.4%
Blue Ridge	65.1%	77.0%	81.9%	77.0%	77.0%	77.0%
Western Piedmont	58.8%	58.8%	68.2%	45.0%	30.1%	30.1%
Sandhills	59.1%	59.1%	75.3%	47.5%	32.7%	32.7%
Eastern Piedmont	66.6%	56.4%	66.6%	42.5%	26.3%	26.3%
Southern Coast	44.5%	44.5%	73.7%	44.5%	30.9%	30.9%
Northern Coast	44.5%	56.8%	66.7%	44.5%	44.5%	44.5%

Fcst. Daily Min. DFM (100-Hr) Pctl. for FDRAs in North Carolina

FDRA	Fri Dec 12	Sat Dec 13	Sun Dec 14	Mon Dec 15	Tue Dec 16	Wed Dec 17
Southern Highlands	63.7%	50.9%	63.7%	63.7%	50.9%	50.9%
Central Mountains	52.6%	38.2%	38.2%	52.6%	52.6%	38.2%
Northern Highlands	68.8%	68.8%	68.8%	68.8%	68.8%	68.8%
Blue Ridge	72.5%	72.5%	72.5%	61.5%	61.5%	61.5%
Western Piedmont	72.3%	62.6%	62.6%	49.2%	49.2%	34.1%
Sandhills	60.3%	47.8%	47.8%	47.8%	47.8%	33.2%
Eastern Piedmont	81.7%	72.5%	59.5%	59.5%	44.5%	27.7%
Southern Coast	62.8%	49.3%	49.3%	49.3%	35.1%	35.1%
Northern Coast	75.3%	64.4%	64.4%	64.4%	51.3%	37.2%

Fcst. Daily Min. DFM (1000-Hr) Pctl. for FDRAs in North Carolina

FDRA	Fri Dec 12	Sat Dec 13	Sun Dec 14	Mon Dec 15	Tue Dec 16	Wed Dec 17
Southern Highlands	82.0%	82.0%	82.0%	69.0%	69.0%	69.0%
Central Mountains	57.0%	57.0%	40.1%	40.1%	40.1%	40.1%
Northern Highlands	63.5%	63.5%	48.5%	48.5%	48.5%	63.5%
Blue Ridge	65.5%	65.5%	51.2%	51.2%	51.2%	51.2%
Western Piedmont	65.2%	65.2%	65.2%	50.0%	50.0%	50.0%
Sandhills	78.3%	78.3%	65.8%	65.8%	65.8%	65.8%
Eastern Piedmont	68.0%	68.0%	68.0%	68.0%	49.6%	49.6%
Southern Coast	91.4%	80.5%	80.5%	67.5%	67.5%	67.5%
Northern Coast	92.7%	83.4%	83.4%	83.4%	69.6%	69.6%

Overall

- December fire activity and difficulty of control tends to be moderated by lower max daily temps, shorter day length, generally better recoveries, and less robust mixing. The tendency this December has been for both lower fire activity and reduced difficulty of control through early month (there are outliers).

- However, even with lower KBDI values & higher duff/soil moisture – surface fire will remain a concern with fluffy hardwood litter + interaction with Helene (or other storm/insect damage areas) footprint issues.

- Widespread/Impactful snow has not occurred at this point in the season. Pockets of state now at 42+ days since a ½" + rainfall event. (Slides 5-6)

- Warming and drying trend more pronounced as we move towards January for NC. Recent drought improvement for some spots in shorter-term but deeper dryness remains, remaining a significant concern for Spring 2026. Note stream flow slide.

- A reminder - colder air temperatures can initially moderate impacts of very dry air and resulting dry fine fuels, however warming conditions that align with already critically dry fine & medium sized dead fuels can lead to extended burning periods and greatly enhance difficulty of control.

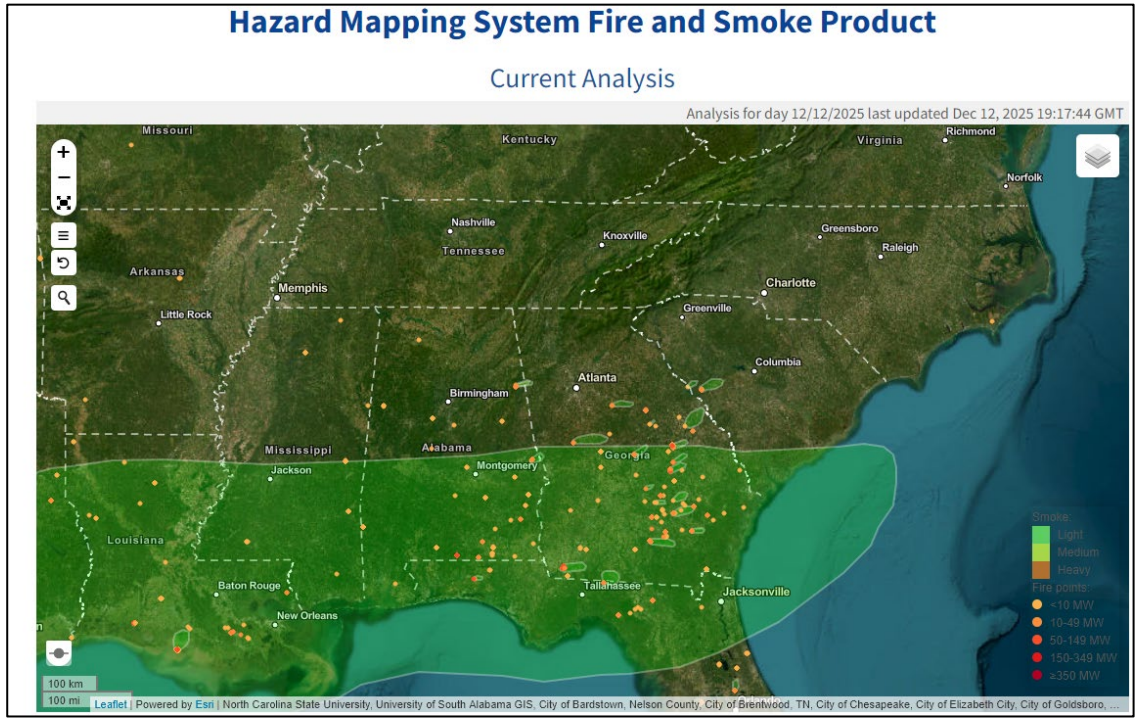
- Careful monitoring of post-burn prescribed fire units & wildfire footprints that overlap with abnormal dryness/low soil moisture will be crucial as we move through "dormant burn season", especially if dry conditions stay entrenched. Note the fire detects in Georgia today (right).

- FEMS utilizes gridded forecast **models** to produce daily NFDRS forecasts – therefore they are subject to significant change (especially farther out in time), which directly impacts daily NFDRS estimates. Actual observed daily NFDRS max/min outputs can differ significantly from forecasted values as a result.

- Work continues relating to FWIP content updates as we progress with FEMS. More information about FEMS, including transition notes, can be found here.

- Interim Adjective Rating values are utilizing FM-Z ERC, binned into five categories.

- FM-Z contains roughly an even split between 1's, 10's, 100's and 1000-hr dead fuels, so picks up on both short/longer-term drying trends.



https://www.ospo.noaa.gov/products/land/hms.html#maps